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COUNTY OF ABERDEEN

REPORT

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ON THE

*Health and Sanitary Conditions of the
County of Aberdeen*

DURING THE

SECOND WORLD WAR

1940-1945

*With the Compliments
of the
Medical Officer of Health.*

County Public Health Office,
4, Albyn Place,
Aberdeen.



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CONTENTS.

	Page
Statistical Summary	IV.
Preface	1

SECTION I.

The General Public Health of the Districts and Burghs.

1. Vital Statistics	4
Population	4
Marriages	4
Births	4
Causes of Death	5
2. Morbidity and Mortality from Infectious Diseases	5
Infectious Diseases—	
(a) Notifiable :	
Small-pox	5
Scarlet Fever	6
Diphtheria & Immunisation	7
Typhoid Fever & Para-typhoid Fever	10
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis)	10
Encephalitis Lethargica	10
Cerebro-spinal Fever	10
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	11
Erysipelas	11
Undulant Fevers	11
Pneumonia	11
Malaria	11
Dysentery	11
(b) Non-notifiable :	12
3. Scabies, etc.	12
4. Disinfections	12

SECTION II.

Maternity and Child Welfare Services	Page 13
---	------------

SECTION III.

School Health Service	20
------------------------------	----

SECTION IV.

Tuberculosis Services	26
------------------------------	----

SECTION V.

Venereal Diseases Services	30
-----------------------------------	----

SECTION VI.

Bacteriological Services	31
---------------------------------	----

SECTION VII.

Nursing Services	33
-------------------------	----

SECTION VIII.

Public Assistance Medical Service	34
--	----

SECTION IX.

Evacuation and Billeting	35
---------------------------------	----

SECTION X.

Synopsis of Reports by Sanitary Inspectors	36
---	----

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

(FOR THE LANDWARD AREA AND ALL THE BURGHS)

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
1. Acreage	1,244,631	1,244,631	1,244,631	1,244,631	1,244,631	1,244,631
2. Population (Estimated Civilian)	141,662	139,400	137,100	135,942	135,488	135,058
3. Density of Population per acre	1·14	1·13	1·11	1·09	1·09	1·08
4. Persons Married per 1,000 Population	6·7	6·8	7·0	6·0	5·5	7·4
5. Number of Live Births (Cor- rected)	2,582	2,604	2,828	2,797	2,767	2,625
6. Birth-rate per 1,000 Population	17·6	17·8	19·3	19·0	18·7	18·0
7. Illegitimate Birth-rate per 100 Births	10·7	12·4	12·7	11·5	11·9	13·3
8. Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 Births	70·8	59·1	53·7	56·5	52·0	42·0
9. Maternal Mortality per 1,000 Live and Still Births ...	2·9	3·3	1·7	1·7	0·7	1·5
10. Number of Deaths from All Forms of Tuberculosis ...	65	59	61	54	50	57
11. Number of Deaths from Pul- monary Tuberculosis ...	37	40	38	36	27	40
12. Death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1,000 Popu- lation	·26	·29	·28	·26	·20	·30
13. Number of Deaths from Non- pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	28	19	23	18	23	17
14. Death-rate from Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1,000 Popu- lation	·20	·13	·17	·14	·17	·12
15. Number of Deaths (Corrected) All Causes	1,831	1,832	1,668	1,717	1,650	1,626
16. Death-rate—All Causes ...	12·9	13·1	12·2	12·6	12·2	12·0

PREFACE

The last Annual Report, dealing with the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the County of Aberdeen, was issued for the year 1939. In 1940, the Secretary of State for Scotland refrained from calling for Annual Reports from Medical Officers of Health. In intimating this decision from year to year, the Secretary indicated that Medical Officers of Health should continue to collate data for a report which would deal with health matters during the period of the war. The Secretary of State has now called for a report, of a summary nature, for the war years, and, in accordance with these instructions, there is now submitted this Report which covers the six years 1940 to 1945 inclusive.

During the war, the Registrar-General issued estimations of populations for the civilian population only. The estimated populations were given for the whole County, including the Burghs. In 1940, the estimated population of the whole County was 141,662. It gradually declined until, in 1945, the estimated population was 135,058—a fall of 6,604. In 1939, the population, as estimated to the middle of that year, was 146,414.

Population

In the six years under review, there was considerable variation in the birth-rates. It was lowest in 1940 with a rate of 17·6, and highest in 1942 with 19·3.

Birth-Rate

The principal causes of death in the County are shown in Table II, where it will be seen that diseases of the heart and other circulatory diseases caused the greatest number of deaths. In 1945, the death-rate per 1,000 was 12·0, and for the quinquennium 1940 to 1944 it was 12·4.

Death-Rate

Special reference should be made to the death-rate from cancer, which was 1·89 in 1945; the average rate for the years 1940 to 1944 was 1·59. Since the beginning of the century, the death-rate from cancer has been gradually increasing. Several reasons have been put forward to account for this increase. Amongst these is the fact that people are living longer and many more are now reaching the so-called “cancer age.” The means of diagnosis are nowadays much better, and more cases of cancer are discovered owing to the frequency with which exploratory laparotomy is performed. In 1939, the Cancer Act was passed, but, on account of the intervention of the war, it has not yet been brought into operation. The Department of Health for Scotland are, however, encouraging Local Authorities to introduce Interim Cancer Schemes which they will be prepared to consider for grant purposes. Although no Interim Scheme is in operation in this area, the County Council have agreed to defray the travelling expenses of necessitous cases who attend the Clinic at the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and the cost of treatment in Woodend Hospital of those cases who require institutional treatment and who, for one reason or another, cannot be accommodated in the wards of the Infirmary.

The fall in the incidence of scarlet fever noted in the pre-war years was continued throughout the war.

**Infectious
Diseases**

As regards diphtheria, the decline in the morbidity and mortality began in the County in 1937 and continued in a very satisfactory manner in spite of the introduction of a potential source of infection from the large influx of evacuees during the early years of the war. In 1945, two of the lowest rates yet recorded in the County were achieved, namely, the diphtheria incidence rate of 0·21 per 1,000 population and the death-rate of 0·007 per 1,000 population. During the past decade, this decline has been most marked amongst children of school age. In this age group, a very high proportion of children—estimated at over 95%—has been immunised and re-immunised against diphtheria, and the highly satisfactory results obtained must, to a considerable extent, be attributed to the preventive measures taken against the disease since the inauguration of the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme in 1935. The relative freedom from diphtheria that the County has enjoyed since 1937 may not be without its disadvantages, for it may lead to complacency and indifference as to the value of immunisation. Local Authorities should therefore be on their guard against such a contingency by endeavouring to persuade all parents to have their children immunised. Diphtheria is a preventable disease. No effort should be spared to immunise and re-immunise against diphtheria all children of pre-school and school ages, if the disabilities and dangers to life resulting from this disease are to be removed from our midst.

In 1942, there were two cases of small-pox, who were treated in the County Hospital, Inverurie. Particulars as to these cases are given in the body of the Report.

In 1944, 19 cases of infantile paralysis were notified. This outbreak coincided with a similar outbreak in the City of Aberdeen.

Tuberculosis

The tuberculosis incidence and mortality rates are based on the estimated civilian population. The definite, if somewhat erratic, decline in the pulmonary death-rate—which reached the record low level of 18 per 100,000 population in 1938—was halted and there was a gradual rise in 1939, 1940 and 1941, after which the death-rate fell slowly to 20 per 100,000 in 1944 and then, in 1945, rose steeply to 30 per 100,000. In view of the slight variations in the incidence of the disease and the smallness of the actual differences in the numbers dying each year, it is difficult to comment on the reasons for the rise in the death-rate. It is, however, worthy of note that the County death-rate from pulmonary tuberculosis is very much lower than that of Scotland as a whole.

The death-rate from non-pulmonary tuberculosis has fluctuated during the past ten years, but there has been a marked drop in this form of the disease during the war years. Surely this is a tribute to the campaign for a purer milk supply.

The rationing of food stuffs affected the scheme for providing special foods to patients undergoing domiciliary treatment. No extra eggs, milk or butter were allowed to tuberculous patients, but it was permissible to prescribe for a patient up to two pints of milk a day. Another form of aid was made available by the Department of Health for Scotland through the Tuberculosis Allowances Scheme which was introduced in 1943.

County Hospital, Inverurie

This up-to-date hospital was opened on 20th December, 1940. It consists of wards for infectious cases, an administrative block, a staff home, laundry and boiler premises and cottages for staff. It has been approved by the General Nursing Council as a training school for nurses. From the date of opening until the end of 1945, 943 cases were admitted, of whom 220 suffered from tuberculosis, 317 from pneumonia and 406 from other infections.

The hospital is well sited. Much credit is due to the matron and visiting physician for the excellent nursing and treatment provided for the patients. Through the personal efforts of the matron, the patients enjoy weekly cinematograph performances.

School Medical Services

The general health of Aberdeenshire school children was well maintained throughout the years of war. During the whole period, the percentage of children free from defects remained fairly constant. Apart from a few small outbreaks of Sonne dysentery, the school children were singularly free from infectious diseases.

The most disappointing feature was that the routine work of dental inspection and treatment was considerably upset through the unavoidable reduction in the number of dental surgeons and the increased amount of dental work resulting from the influx of evacuee children. The services of two dental surgeons were lost. One whole-time dental surgeon enlisted and one part-time surgeon resigned. In the Table dealing with dental inspections and appearing in Section III of this Report, it will be seen that there was a progressive increase in the number of children with sound teeth, as ascertained at the examinations carried out both by the whole-time and the part-time dental surgeons. The introduction of war-time bread, with its increased calcium content and its decreased percentage of white flour, may well have been a factor in this satisfactory result.

Maternity and Child Welfare Services

The advent of the war did not interfere with the gradually increasing scope of the Maternity and Child Welfare Services. Splendid work was performed at the Child Welfare Clinics which are now nine in number. Of these, seven are conducted in Burghs and the other two in Bucksburn and in Culter. The three Burghs in which these Clinics have not yet been established are Kintore, Oldmeldrum and Rosehearty, but it is hoped that it will soon be possible to have Clinics established there.

The value of these services is reflected in the great fall in the infantile death-rate which, in 1945, was only 42 per 1,000 live births, and in the low maternal mortality.

The Scheme under the Maternity Services (Scotland) Act, 1937, began to function in the County in January, 1940, and all the County medical practitioners, with three exceptions, participated in the Scheme.

Nursing Services

Very little difficulty was experienced in obtaining nurses for work in the County Hospitals, but it was not so easy to recruit District Nurses, the reason being that so many nurses had joined the Forces. Unfortunately, the County is not yet fully covered by a network of District Nurses.

Venereal Diseases

During the war, much was done to educate the public by propaganda, with the result that the average individual now has some knowledge of the dangers arising from untreated venereal disease, and, if infected, comes early for medical advice. Regulation 33 B of the Defence (General) Regulations came into force on 5th November, 1942. This Regulation is undoubtedly limited in its application, but its propaganda value is excellent.

In many quarters it is held that venereal diseases should be compulsorily notified, but compulsory notification without compulsory treatment would be of little avail. There are objections to compulsory treatment and, on the whole, the time does not seem opportune for the introduction of compulsory measures.

The bacteriological work was carried out most efficiently at the Laboratory, City Hospital, Aberdeen, by Dr. John Smith, Regional Bacteriologist. The number of samples examined has increased year by year. The average number of samples examined during the quinquennium 1940 to 1944 was 10,904, and, in 1945, 11,236 samples were examined. This service is highly appreciated by the County practitioners.

**Bacteriol-
ogical
Services**

The problems that arose in connection with the large-scale evacuation of children from Glasgow is dealt with in Section IX of this Report.

Evacuation

The work that had to be undertaken by the Sanitary Inspectors during the war was indeed arduous. It is true that their activities in connection with housing were largely curtailed and that the incidence of infectious diseases was low, but they had to undertake salvage work and numerous other Civil Defence duties. A synopsis of their work is submitted in Section X. A considerable amount of meat inspection was carried out at Inverurie Slaughterhouse and at the Dyce Bacon Factory.

**Sanitary
Services**

The question is often asked : " What effect had the war on the health of the community ? " It is true that the incidence of cerebro-spinal fever (spotted fever) increased, that the death-rate from tuberculosis, especially pulmonary tuberculosis, was adversely affected and that scabies, essentially a war disease, was, for a time, rampant. It also happened, as it did in the first World War, that there was an increase in the incidence of venereal diseases. On the other hand, there was a decrease in the number of infant deaths. Statistics for the years under consideration proved that the health of the school child suffered little, if at all ; there was no deterioration in their dental condition. The rationing of foods by the Government, and their aim that a properly balanced diet should be provided for the people did much to enable the workers to withstand the physical and mental strain of war. To sum up, it would appear that there has been little, if any, permanent damage to the health of the community.

**Effects
of War
on Health**

In the County, 37 shelters were erected to accommodate 50 persons, and one shelter, situated at Bucksburn, to accommodate 100 persons. During air-raid warnings, most of these shelters were grossly overcrowded, but no cases of infectious or respiratory diseases could be traced to the temporary communal life in these shelters. The increased incidence of cerebro-spinal fever could not be attributed to shelter life.

I wish to express to the Council and to the Public Health Committee my gratitude for the support which I received during the period of the war. I would also express my appreciation of the work performed by the medical, hospital, sanitary and clerical staffs without whose cordial co-operation the work of the Public Health Department could not have functioned effectively.

**Acknow-
ledge-
ments**

In August, 1945, the Department suffered a grievous loss by the sudden death of Dr. A. F. MacBean, Regional School Medical Officer. Dr. MacBean was appointed School Medical Officer for the County of Aberdeen in 1915. He served in the East during the 1914-18 War, and, when the County Council amalgamated their Health Services in 1925, he continued as School Medical Officer. In 1930, the Aberdeen and Kincardine County Councils and Aberdeen Town Council combined to form a Regional Medical Service, and, from then until his death, Dr. MacBean acted as Regional School Medical Officer. The officials of the Health Department felt keenly the loss of an able and courteous colleague.

HARRY J. RAE,

Medical Officer of Health.

COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

4 ALBYN PLACE, ABERDEEN,

10th February, 1947.

SECTION I.

General Public Health of the Districts and Burghs

1. VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The decennial census would, had it not been for the War, have been taken in 1941. During the war years, the Registrar General's estimate of the civilian population was issued for the County as a whole, no separate estimated populations being given in respect of the constituent Burghs. The accuracy of the estimated populations must therefore be treated with reserve.

The estimated population of the Districts and Burghs was 146,414 in 1939, and, in the subsequent six years the estimated populations were as follows:—

1945	...	135,058	1943	...	135,942	1941	...	139,400
1944	...	135,498	1942	...	137,100	1940	...	141,662

The average yearly estimated population for the quinquennium 1940-44 was 137,920.

In 1945, the natural increase in the population—the excess of births over deaths—was 999. For the years 1940 to 1944, the average yearly natural increase was 976.

Marriages

The population used in estimating birth rates and marriage rates includes an allowance made by the Registrar-General for persons in the armed forces.

The number of marriages in 1938 was 825 and in 1939—1,007, giving a marriage rate of 5.6 and 6.9 respectively. In the war years the numbers and rates were as under:—

Year	Number						Rate
1940	986	6.7
1941	997	6.8
1942	1,016	7.0
1943	884	6.0
1944	814	5.5
1945	1,083	7.4

For 1940 to 1944 the average number of marriages registered was 939.

Births

In 1945, the total number of births, corrected for inward and outward transfers, was 2,625; of these, 1,333 were males and 1,292 females. The greatest number of births took place in 1942, when the corrected number of live births was 2,828, representing a record birth-rate of 19.3. (See Table I.)

For the quinquennial period 1940 to 1944, the average yearly number of live births was 2,716.

Of the total births in 1945, 348 were illegitimate and the illegitimate birth-rate for that year was 13.3. For the period 1940 to 1944, the illegitimate births numbered 1,608 and the illegitimate birth-rate was 11.4. The following table shows the births and birth-rates in the County and in Scotland during the war years.

TABLE I

YEAR			ABERDEEN COUNTY				SCOTLAND	
			Births		Birth-rate		Birth-rate	
			Total	Illegitimate	Total	Illegitimate	Total	Illegitimate
1940	...	...	2,582	275	17.6	10.7	17.1	5.9
1941	...	...	2,604	323	17.8	12.4	17.9	6.6
1942	...	...	2,828	358	19.3	12.7	17.6	7.1
1943	...	...	2,797	323	19.0	11.5	18.4	7.6
1944	...	...	2,767	329	18.7	11.9	19.2	7.9
1945	...	...	2,625	348	18.0	13.3	18.0	8.6

The number of still births registered in 1945 was 84. The average annual number of still births for the period 1940-44 was 110.

Causes of Death

The principal causes of death, together with the number of deaths attributable to the various well-defined diseases, appear in Table II, where comparison is made between the figures obtaining in 1945 and the average of those of the 1940-44 quinquennium.

TABLE II

CAUSES OF DEATH	COUNTY, including Burghs	
	1945	1940-44 (average)
Diseases of the Heart and other Circulatory Diseases	524	520
Cerebral Haemorrhage and other Diseases of Nervous System	248	240
Respiratory Diseases—		
Bronchitis	41	57
Pneumonia	49	64
Other	24	22
Cancer	255	219
Tuberculosis—		
Pulmonary	40	36
Non-pulmonary	17	22
Kidney, etc., Diseases	75	88
Chief Epidemic Diseases—		
Diphtheria	1	2·8
Whooping Cough	3	5·6
Measles	2	·8
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	·8
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	7·2
Other Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	9	12
Diseases of the Digestive System, including Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	67	89
Influenza	1	18
Puerperal Conditions	4	5·8
Diseases of Early Infancy	52	87
Violence	77	92

2. MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Small-pox

After an immunity of twelve years, two cases of small-pox occurred in the end of 1942 in the Strathbogie Division of the County.

The original case was a man, aged 28 years, who was a telephone operator by occupation. He arrived in Edinburgh on 6th November and, for a month prior to that date, had been employed at an aerodrome in Wiltshire. At this time, there was an epidemic of small-pox in Edinburgh, and Vaccination Centres had been opened throughout the City. On 15th November, he visited a Clinic at the MacEwan Hall, Edinburgh, and was there vaccinated. He had not been vaccinated in childhood. He arrived in Aberdeenshire on 18th November, felt unwell on 20th instant, and then consulted a local practitioner. On that day he was admitted to the County Hospital, Inverurie. On admission to hospital, the arm on which vaccination had been performed was very inflamed but no rash was present. On 23rd November, the arm was more inflamed and there was on the body a slight rash which was post-vaccinal in character. On this day the patient did not feel ill, but three days later he became acutely ill and a typical small-pox rash appeared.

The patient suffered from confluent small-pox and made a complete recovery, apart from slight pitting of the face. The case was unusual in that the reaction to vaccination was most severe. Judging from the condition of the arm and the occurrence of the rash, it was considered that vaccination and small-pox infection had proceeded side by side, but that ultimately the small-pox infection got the upper hand. It may definitely be stated that, in an outbreak of small-pox, complete reliance cannot be placed on vaccination unless it has been performed successfully before the date of exposure to the disease.

The other case was a girl in the hospital, aged four and a half years, who had not been vaccinated in infancy. She became fretful on the ninth day after apparently very successful vaccination. The case proved to be one of small-pox, considerably modified by vaccination. Had this case been vaccinated in infancy, it is highly probable that she would not have developed the disease at her age.

The usual preventive measures were adopted, viz. :—

1. All the members of the nursing and domestic staffs had been vaccinated or re-vaccinated in July, 1942.
2. All the adult patients in the hospital were vaccinated or re-vaccinated. In the case of the children, prior consent had to be obtained from the parents or guardians.
3. All persons working within the grounds of the hospital were vaccinated or re-vaccinated.
4. All persons in the district, who had been in contact with the male case, were vaccinated and were kept under surveillance for sixteen days after the last contact with the patient.
5. Whenever the original case was diagnosed, a circular letter was sent to each doctor in the County, informing him that a case of small-pox had occurred and asking him to intimate to the Medical Officer of Health any case of adult chicken-pox or any case with signs suspicious of small-pox.
6. Two engineers, intimate contacts, were isolated in the County Hospital, Inverurie, during the maximum incubation period.
7. A free Vaccination Centre was established at the Town Hall, Inverurie, through the courtesy of the Town Council. The result was most gratifying as vaccination or re-vaccination was performed on over 70% of the population of the Burgh.
8. The hospital was closed to visitors. All members of the staff were quarantined for 16 days. No new cases were admitted and no cases were discharged within 19 days of the onset of definite symptoms of the original small-pox case.

As a result of the preventive measures adopted, there was no spread of the disease to the general population.

Scarlet Fever

The numbers of cases of scarlet fever notified from the Districts and Burghs since 1931, were as follows :—

1931	...	223	1936	...	1,278	1941	...	115
1932	...	317	1937	...	569	1942	...	107
1933	...	660	1938	...	676	1943	...	204
1934	...	1,491	1939	...	321	1944	...	134
1935	...	1,408	1940	...	177	1945	...	186

The age incidence and percentage in age groups of cases of scarlet fever dealt with in 1945 and in the quinquennium 1940-44 are shown in Table III.

TABLE III

Years	All Ages	Under 1 Year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and Over	Removed to Hospital	Treated at Home
1940-44	801	7	205	456	79	47	6	1	688	113
Percentage	100	.9	25.6	56.9	9.9	5.9	.7	.1	85.9	14.1
1945	186	1	47	116	16	3	3	—	168	18
Percentage	100	.5	25.3	62.4	8.6	1.6	1.6	—	90.3	9.7

It is worthy of note that in 1945, 1.6% of the cases occurred in the 25-45 year age group. In the 1940-44 period, 5.9% of the cases occurred in that age-group.

Diphtheria and Immunisation

Incidence.

The total number of diphtheria notifications for the years 1940 to 1945—confirmed bacteriologically—was 563 cases. Table IV shows the progressive decline in the number of these cases since 1941, till in 1945 only 39 cases were notified—the lowest number yet recorded in the County during the present century and equal to a rate of 0.21 per 1,000 population. Of the total number of cases occurring in the years 1940 to 1945, only 12 cases were treated at home.

TABLE IV

Year	Numbers Notified	Rate per 1,000 Population	Numbers Treated in Hospital
1940 ...	121	0.85	118
1941 ...	131	0.93	130
1942 ...	122	0.89	118
1943 ...	98	0.72	94
1944 ...	52	0.38	52
1945 ...	39	0.21	39
Total ...	563	0.68	551

The age incidence of these notified cases is seen in Table V. Of the 563 cases, 118 occurred in the 0-4 year age group, 215 in the 5-14 year age group and 230 in the 15 year-and-over age group. It will be seen also that, on the whole, there is again a yearly decline in the incidence in each of these three age groups, the decline being most marked in the 0-4 age group and to a lesser degree in the 5-14 age group.

TABLE V

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS FROM DIPHTHERIA, 1940-45

YEAR	0-4 YEARS		5-14 YEARS		15 YEARS & OVER		ALL AGES	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1940	31	2	38	—	52	1	121	3
1941	32	2	51	4	48	—	131	6
1942	22	—	47	2	53	—	122	2
1943	16	—	47	—	35	2	98	2
1944	12	—	20	—	20	1	52	1
1945	5	—	12	1	22	—	39	1
Totals, 1940-45 ...	118	4	215	7	230	4	563	15

Type of Diphtheritic Infection.

In the year 1943, an investigation was carried out by the Medical Research Council into the causal type of diphtheria bacilli prevailing in various parts of this country. During that year, 68 infections among the notified cases in the County were “typed” and the ascertained types—*gravis*, *intermedius* and *mitis*—of the invading diphtheria bacilli occurring in the age groups amongst immunised and non-immunised individuals are shown in the following Table :—

TABLE VI

AGE GROUP	IMMUNISED				NON-IMMUNISED			
	Gravis	Intermedius	Mitis	Total	Gravis	Intermedius	Mitis	Total
0-4 years ...	—	—	—	—	7	1	—	8
5-14 years ...	10	1	—	11	20	2	1	23
15 years and over	2	—	—	2	22	2	—	24
Totals	12	1	—	13	49	5	1	55

It will be noted that in 61 or 89.7% of the cases, the *gravis* type of infection was present. The *intermedius* and *mitis* types accounted for 8.8% and 1.5% respectively.

Mortality.

There were 15 deaths from diphtheria during the years 1940-45, which is equal to a mortality rate of 0.018 per 1,000 population and to a case mortality rate of 2.6. Table VII shows that the mortality rate has been progressively declining until in the years 1944 and 1945 the lowest rates, viz., 0.007 per 1,000 population in each year, were reached. These rates are the lowest yet recorded in the County.

TABLE VII

YEAR	DIPHTHERIA MORTALITY		
	Number of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Population	Mortality per 100 Cases
1940	3	0·02	2·4
1941	6	0·04	4·5
1942	2	0·01	1·6
1943	2	0·01	2·0
1944	1	0·007	1·9
1945	1	0·007	2·5
Total ...	15	0·018	2·6

Of the 15 deaths, 4 occurred in children in the 0-4 age group ; 7 in the 5-14 age group and 4 in the 15 year-and-over age group.

Table VIII shows that no pre-school child died from diphtheria during the years 1942 to 1945. It will also be seen in this Table that no deaths occurred amongst previously immunised persons.

TABLE VIII

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS FROM DIPHTHERIA AMONG THE IMMUNISED AND NON-IMMUNISED, 1940-45

YEAR	AGE 0-4 YEARS				AGE 5-14 YEARS				AGE 15 YEARS AND OVER				ALL AGES			
	Cases		Deaths		Cases		Deaths		Cases		Deaths		Cases		Deaths	
	Immunised	Non-Immunised	Immunised	Non-Immunised	Immunised	Non-Immunised	Immunised	Non-Immunised	Immunised	Non-Immunised	Immunised	Non-Immunised	Immunised	Non-Immunised	Immunised	Non-Immunised
1940	—	31	—	2	6	32	—	—	2	50	—	1	8	113	—	3
1941	1	31	—	2	13	38	—	4	4	44	—	—	18	113	—	6
1942	4	18	—	—	18	29	—	2	7	46	—	—	29	93	—	2
1943	—	16	—	—	16	31	—	—	2	33	—	2	18	80	—	2
1944	3	9	—	—	9	11	—	—	3	17	—	1	15	37	—	1
1945	1	4	—	—	6	6	—	1	6	16	—	—	13	26	—	1
Totals	9	109	—	4	68	147	—	7	24	206	—	4	101	462	—	15

It will also be observed that 101 of the 563 cases occurred amongst persons who had previously been immunised. In all these cases the disease was mild in character and unaccompanied by serious complications. The period elapsing between the date of immunisation and the date of notification varied from three months to nine years.

Immunisation.

The scheme for the artificial active immunisation of pre-school and school children against diphtheria was continued in the year 1940 on the lines set forth in the 1939 Annual Report, viz. : (1) the active immunisation by the "one-shot" method with alum precipitated toxoid of pre-school children and of any children of school age with or without a preliminary Schick test, and (2) the re-testing and post-Schick testing of all previously immunised children attending school and the re-immunising of those found still to be susceptible to the disease.

Owing to the increasing prevalence of diphtheria in this country in 1940, circulars were issued by the Department of Health for Scotland in June and December of that year requiring Local Authorities to provide in their areas free facilities for the immunisation of children against diphtheria. In accordance with these instructions, a new County Immunisation Scheme was introduced in 1941, embodying the Department's recommendation that the "two-dose" method of immunisation should be adopted. Briefly, the new scheme consisted of the active immunisation, without preliminary Schick testing, of all children from six months of age up to school leaving age, and the re-immunisation of previously immunised pre-school children on reaching school age, and of school children on their attaining the age of 8 or 9 years.

Alum precipitated diphtheria toxoid (A.P.T.), supplied free to all scheme-making Local Authorities by the Department of Health for Scotland, was continued as the immunising agent under the new scheme. It was administered in two spaced doses—a deep intra-muscular injection of 0·5 c.c. into the deltoid region of the left arm for the first inoculation, followed by 0·5 c.c. into the same region of the right arm for the second inoculation after an interval of not less than four weeks. Children thus treated were not considered to be fully immunised until three months had elapsed after the administration of the second dose. For the re-immunisation of previously immunised children a single dose of 0·5 c.c. sufficed.

On January 19th, 1945, an additional facility for the free immunisation of pre-school children came into operation. In rural areas, it was realised that it was not always possible for parents, who desired to have pre-school children immunised, to take advantage of the existing arrangements provided at the County schools and clinics on account of transport and domestic difficulties in attending these centres. To cover this gap and to stimulate the immunisation of a larger percentage of pre-school children, the County Council added to the County Immunisation Scheme a further provision whereby pre-school children could be immunised by their own doctors free of charge either at the doctors' surgeries or at their own homes. For this purpose, the County medical practitioners received a free supply of A.P.T., as previously, and fees for injections whether these were administered and recorded at their surgeries or were carried out at the children's homes.

In a circular letter, dated 5th April, 1945, the Department of Health for Scotland introduced a new system of recording the half-yearly return of immunisation statistical data. The essential difference in the method of recording was that, whereas previously the number of completed immunisations and cases of diphtheria were classified according to the age of the child at the date of the immunisation or illness, these thereafter would be classified according to the *year of birth* of the child concerned. The reason for the change was that it was found impossible, with any degree of certainty, to calculate from the old returns the proportion of the population in a given age group immunised at any given date. Without this information it would have been difficult to estimate what the influence of active immunisation was upon the incidence of and mortality from diphtheria as immunisation work progressed. All statistical data relating to diphtheria immunisation from 1945 onwards will therefore be recorded as in Table IX.

TABLE IX
NUMBER OF COMPLETED IMMUNISATIONS, MAINTENANCE INOCULATIONS, AND CONFIRMED CASES AND DEATHS AMONGST THE IMMUNISED AND NON-IMMUNISED DURING THE YEAR 1945
CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THE YEAR OF BIRTH

YEAR OF BIRTH	NUMBER OF COMPLETED IMMUNISATIONS	NUMBER OF MAINTENANCE INOCULATIONS	IMMUNISED CHILDREN		NON-IMMUNISED CHILDREN	
			Number of Confirmed Cases of Diphtheria	Number of Diphtheria Deaths	Number of Confirmed Cases of Diphtheria	Number of Diphtheria Deaths
1945 ...	29	—	—	—	1	—
1944 ...	649	—	1	—	—	—
1943 ...	617	—	—	—	—	—
1942 ...	418	5	—	—	—	—
1941 ...	234	42	—	—	3	—
1940 ...	196	91	1	—	1	1
1939 ...	292	204	1	—	—	—
1938 ...	305	208	1	—	1	—
1937 ...	262	227	—	—	1	—
1936 ...	191	218	1	—	—	—
1935 ...	109	237	—	—	—	—
1934 ...	63	245	—	—	1	—
1933 ...	55	227	2	—	1	—
1932 ...	52	204	—	—	1	—
1931 ...	28	119	—	—	—	—
1930 ...	15	57	—	—	—	—
1929 or earlier	5	72	6	—	16	—
Totals ...	3,520	2,156	13	—	26	1

In Table X, it is shown that 21,639 children of all ages were actively immunised during the years 1940 to 1945. Of this number, 11,311 were immunised at the schools, 8,005 at the clinics and 2,323 privately by medical practitioners. No visitations were made to the schools during 1943, the immunisation work during that year being entirely confined to work carried out at the Child Welfare Clinics and privately by medical practitioners. The total number of persons of all ages immunised since the year 1935 to the end of 1945 was 45,254.

TABLE X

YEARS	NUMBER OF IMMUNISATIONS			NUMBER OF RE-IMMUNISATIONS
	At Schools and Clinics		Privately	
	School Age	Pre-school Age	Pre-school Age	
1940 ...	1,130	393	99	1,179
1941 ...	4,749	2,699	585	3,314
1942 ...	2,454	1,853	516	3,903
1943 ...	15	284	261	8
1944 ...	1,590	1,191	304	3,679
1945 ...	1,377	1,585	558	2,156
Totals ...	11,311	8,005	2,323	14,239

During the past six years, there has been a great demand by parents for re-immunisation, 14,239 children of all ages having received maintenance or "boosting" doses. This brings the total number of children re-immunised since 1935 up to 18,246.

Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fevers

In 1939, 22 notifications of these diseases were received. In 1940, there were 18 notifications—5 suffering from typhoid fever and 13 from para-typhoid B fever. Seventeen received institutional treatment. Two of the cases suffering from typhoid fever died. In 1941, 9 cases were notified; one case proved to be a typhoid "carrier," whilst the other 8 suffered from para-typhoid B; all were treated in hospital; no deaths occurred. In 1942, 3 cases of typhoid fever were notified; all were treated in hospital; one case died. In 1943, there was notified one case of para-typhoid B which was removed to hospital and recovered. One case of typhoid fever was notified in 1944; she was treated in hospital, but died. In 1945, 4 cases of para-typhoid fever B were notified, treated in hospital, and recovered.

Acute Anterior Polio-myelitis (Infantile Paralysis)

In 1939, there were four cases of this disease. In the period under review, there was a marked increased incidence in 1944, and this coincided with a similar increase in the City of Aberdeen.

The numbers notified and the numbers treated in hospital are given herewith:—

TABLE XI

YEAR	NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS	NUMBER REMOVED TO HOSPITAL
1940	6	3
1941	7	4
1942	4	3
1943	4	3
1944	19	18
1945	3	3

In the 1944 outbreak, one case occurred in July, 4 in August, 8 in September, 4 in October and 2 in November. As regards age and sex incidence, 11 cases occurred in the 5-15 age group and of these 6 were males and 5 were females. In the 1-5 age group, there were 1 male and 3 females, in the 15-25 age group, there were 1 male and 2 females, whilst over the age of 25, there was one male.

In the 19 cases under consideration, various parts of the body were affected. In 6 cases the lower limbs and in 4 cases the upper limbs were involved. Both upper and lower limbs were affected in 2 cases. Two of the cases died; in one case, the child became unconscious and died within 48 hours of onset of the disease, and, in the other fatal case, the respiratory muscles were paralysed.

Encephalitis Lethargica (Sleepy Sickness)

During the six years under review, only one case was notified in 1941.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever

In 1939, one case of cerebro-spinal fever was notified to the Public Health Department. As was to be expected, the incidence of this disease increased considerably in the war years. In the following table are shown the numbers notified, the numbers removed to hospital and the number of deaths. The attack rate of cerebro-spinal fever was .1 in 1945 and .19 in the quinquennial period 1940-44.

TABLE XII

1940			1941			1942		
No. Notified	No. Removed to Hospital	No. of Deaths	No. Notified	No. Removed to Hospital	No. of Deaths	No. Notified	No. Removed of Hospital	No. of Deaths
56	54	11	37	34	11	11	10	6

1943			1944			1945		
No. Notified	No. Removed to Hospital	No. of Deaths	No. Notified	No. Removed to Hospital	No. of Deaths	No. Notified	No. Removed to Hospital	No. of Deaths
15	15	6	10	10	2	13	12	—

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

The number of cases of ophthalmia neonatorum notified in each of the six years are given in Table XIII. All the cases were notified by practitioners.

TABLE XIII

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
No. of Cases Notified	5	5	4	1	6	2
(a) From Burghs	3	3	1	—	4	1
(b) From Landward Area ...	2	2	3	1	2	1
Removed to Hospital	2	3	1	—	4	1

In 1944, one child, suffering from ophthalmia neonatorum, died after admission to hospital. The cause of death was gastro-enteritis and heart failure.

Erysipelas

In 1945, 95 cases were notified: 30 were treated in hospital.

In 1944, 83	„	: 17	„
In 1943, 75	„	: 20	„
In 1942, 63	„	: 6	„
In 1941, 64	„	: 14	„
In 1940, 95	„	: 25	„

Undulant Fever

During the six years, the numbers of cases of undulant fever notified and removed to hospital were as under:—

TABLE XIV

YEAR	CASES	NUMBER REMOVED TO HOSPITAL
1940	7	3
1941	4	1
1942	5	1
1943	5	3
1944	1	—
1945	1	1

Pneumonia

Pneumonia, if acute and primary, is a notifiable disease. In 1945, 330 cases were notified and 172 received institutional treatment.

In 1944, there were notified 368 cases, of whom 185 were treated in hospital: in 1943, there were notified 387 cases, of whom 147 were treated in hospital: in 1942, there were notified 310 cases, of whom 90 were treated in hospital: in 1941, there were notified 311 cases, of whom 89 were treated in hospital: and in 1940, there were notified 357 cases, of whom 89 were treated in hospital.

Malaria

Four cases of malaria, contracted abroad, were notified in 1945. One case received institutional treatment.

In 1944, there were notified 3 cases, of whom none was removed to hospital: in 1943, there were notified 2 cases, of whom 1 case was treated in hospital: in 1942 and 1941, there were no cases notified: in 1940, there were notified 4 cases, of whom 3 were treated in hospital.

Dysentery

One hundred and seventy-nine cases of dysentery were notified in 1945, and, of these, 45 were treated institutionally.

In 1944, there were notified 111 cases, of whom 34 were treated in hospital: in 1943, there were notified 149 cases, of whom 27 were treated in hospital: in 1942, there were notified 183 cases, of whom 48 were treated in hospital: in 1941, 169 cases were notified, of whom 74 were treated in hospital: in 1940, 48 cases were notified, of whom 37 were treated in hospital.

(b) Non-notifiable Diseases.

The four chief non-notifiable diseases are measles, whooping-cough, mumps and chicken-pox. Chicken-pox ceased to be a compulsorily notifiable disease as from 31st December, 1932. The fact that these diseases are not compulsorily notifiable results in an absence of knowledge as to the exact measure of their actual incidence. Information as to their incidence amongst school children is obtained chiefly from Head Teachers and Attendance Officers. These diseases are usually not in themselves dangerous, but when severe complications ensue—and these usually involve the lungs—arrangements are made for transference of the sufferers to appropriate institutions.

3. Scabies, etc.

During the war years, there was a marked increase in the number of cases of scabies which became so widespread that the Government introduced the Scabies Order (Scotland), 1941. This Order gave Local Authorities additional powers to deal with scabies and verminous conditions generally. During the six years 1940-45, 669 cases were dealt with in the County Infectious Diseases Hospitals and 268 in the City Hospital, Aberdeen. A very much larger number of cases was treated at their homes by family doctors who usually employed benzyl benzoate with marked success. Several cases were treated as out-patients, both at the County Infectious Diseases Hospitals and at the City Hospital, Aberdeen.

Head lice presented a problem, especially at the commencement of evacuation. In this connection, much disagreeable work was carried out by the several District Nurses without complaint.

4. Disinfections

The number of official disinfections performed by the Sanitary Inspectors during 1945 appears in Table XV. The average number for the period 1940-44 is also shown :—

TABLE XV

	SCARLET FEVER	DIPHTHERIA	TYPHOID FEVER	TUBERCU- LOSIS	OTHER	TOTAL
1945 ...	102	31	2	3	89	227
Av. 40-44	89	67	4	8	63	232

It must again be emphasised that a great deal of money and time is often fruitlessly spent on the official disinfection of rooms with gaseous disinfectants. With the exception of small-pox, typhus and "open" tuberculosis, when disinfection must be carried out in the most thorough manner, the most efficient room disinfection consists of fresh air, sunlight and the free use of soap and water. The education of the public as to the futility of official disinfection will be a very gradual process.

SECTION II.

Maternity and Child Welfare Services

MATERNITY SERVICES SCHEME

A scheme under the Maternity Services (Scotland) Act, 1937, was brought into operation in the County of Aberdeen on 16th January, 1940. With three exceptions, all the County medical practitioners agreed to give their services under the scheme. The scheme provides that every woman who applies for it may have the services both of a medical practitioner and also of a midwife. The midwife aspect of the scheme is carried out by the District Nurses throughout the County, by whole-time midwives, by Health-Visitor-Midwives in Fraserburgh and Peterhead areas and by part-time midwives.

The numbers of midwives who gave notice of their intention to practise in the County were as shown in Table XVI.

TABLE XVI

YEAR	DISTRICT NURSES	LOCAL AUTHORITY MIDWIVES	INDEPENDENT MIDWIVES	MIDWIVES IN HOSPITALS	TOTAL
1940 ...	44	4	8	7	63
1941 ...	43	5	4	4	56
1942 ...	44	4	5	12	65
1943 ...	44	5	4	12	65
1944 ...	43	6	3	14	66
1945 ...	44	7	1	23	75

Since the inauguration of the scheme until the end of 1945, the Local Authority's whole-time midwives were increased from 4 to 7, and the number of part-time midwives was reduced to one.

Arrangements have been made whereby maternity cases, especially primiparae, coming under the domiciliary scheme, may be admitted to hospital. This extension of the scope of the Maternity Services Scheme may ultimately be adopted throughout the country.

The following table shows the numbers who booked under the scheme and how they were dealt with :—

TABLE XVII

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Domiciliary	1,079	1,180	1,571	1,412	1,370	1,242
Removed to Hospital	157	327	532	605	752	794
Removed to Other Areas	10	13	12	17	8	33
Deaths	1	2	2	1	—	—
Not Pregnant	—	—	2	1	—	—

The number of maternity cases who desire to have their confinements carried out in hospital is steadily increasing, and this is partly due to unsatisfactory housing conditions.

MATERNITY HOSPITAL PROVISION

1. Maternity and Ante-natal Hospitals, Foresterhill.

The Ante-natal Hospital was erected adjacent to the Maternity Hospital at Foresterhill, and the capital cost was met jointly by the Aberdeen Town Council and by the County Councils of Aberdeen and Kincardine. A Babies' Nursery, with accommodation for 33 babies, was also established in the Maternity Hospital and has been used with success for premature babies.

2. Ellon Maternity Hospital.

Ellon Hospital was used for the reception of cases suffering from infectious diseases until, in 1932, it was considered to be superfluous for this purpose and was closed.

It remained closed until 1939, when, after considerable reconstruction, it was opened as a maternity hospital. The total accommodation is 12 beds—5 for ante-natal and 7 for natal cases. From 1940 until the end of 1945, no fewer than 1,490 cases were confined in this hospital which has served a most useful function.

At the same time, it must be confessed that the conversion of the old institution to accommodate maternity cases is never wholly satisfactory.

3. Maternity Unit at Huntly Jubilee Hospital.

The County Council erected a cubicle block at this Hospital many years ago. This block had accommodation for twelve cases, and the cases admitted were those suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis and pneumonia. In view of the increasing demand for maternity beds, the County Council decided to convert this building into a maternity unit. This unit was opened in November, 1944, and from that date until the end of 1945, 153 deliveries were conducted there. This institution, like other maternity units in the County, is meant only for cases of normal labour.

At Huntly, eight maternity cases can be accommodated. The unit is administered by the Managers of Huntly Jubilee Cottage Hospital on behalf of the County Council. Cases from all over the County may be admitted to this hospital.

4. Fraserburgh Maternity Hospital.

In November, 1945, Fraserburgh Hospital, which used to receive cases of infectious diseases, was opened as a maternity hospital. It is conducted on lines similar to those employed at Ellon Hospital and has filled a much-needed want in the coastal area of the County. Twenty-eight cases were confined in this hospital during the months of November and December, 1945.

5. Cottage Hospitals.

The County Council has reserved a certain number of beds in Cottage Hospitals throughout the County, paying the managers of these hospitals £25 per bed per annum, whether occupied or not, and a certain sum per week per occupied bed.

Four beds are reserved in Turriff and in Inch Cottage Hospitals, and two beds in the Nicoll Hospital, Rhynie, in Kincardine O'Neil War Memorial Hospital, Torphins, and in Fyvie Cottage Hospital, Fyvie.

6. War-time Emergency Maternity Homes.

During the war, War-time Emergency Maternity Homes were established in Fyvie Castle, Coull House and Haddo House. The two first named functioned for only a short period, but part of Haddo House was used for maternity cases from September, 1939, until June, 1945. To Haddo House were admitted many Glasgow evacuee expectant mothers and also mothers from the Counties of Aberdeen and Kincardine. During the war years, splendid work was performed at this hospital and the results obtained were excellent.

The numbers of confinements conducted in the County Maternity Hospitals, the Cottage Hospitals, in Haddo House and in Aberdeen Maternity Hospital, Foresterhill, are given in Table XVIII.

TABLE XVIII
NUMBERS OF CONFINEMENTS IN HOSPITALS

HOSPITAL	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
1. Ellon	189	216	229	258	271	262
2. Huntly	—	—	—	—	16	137
3. Fraserburgh	—	—	—	—	—	28
4. Turriff	79	84	116	132	145	135
5. Inch	50	54	57	56	73	72
6. Nicoll, Rhynie	23	40	55	67	67	71
7. Kincardine O'Neil, Torphins	48	61	104	129	174	102
8. Fyvie	6	16	24	34	46	47
9. Haddo House	11	239	146	264	426	136
10. Aberdeen Maternity	47	46	154	152	126	146

Births and Birth-rates

During the years 1940 to 1943, the birth-rate rose steadily and kept pace with the birth-rate for all Scotland. In 1944, the County birth-rate fell below that of the country as a whole, and, in 1945, there was a fall, both local and national. In 1945, the birth-rate was 18.

The number of live births registered in the County, with its constituent burghs, the birth-rate per 1,000 of population, and the birth-rate for all Scotland for the past ten years, are given in Table XIX.

TABLE XIX

YEAR	ABERDEEN COUNTY		SCOTLAND
	No. of Live Births	Birth-rate	Birth-rate
1936	2,842	19.4	17.9
1937	2,629	17.9	17.6
1938	2,725	18.5	17.7
1939	2,702	18.5	17.4
1940	2,582	17.6	17.1
1941	2,604	17.8	17.9
1942	2,828	19.3	17.6
1943	2,797	19.0	18.4
1944	2,767	18.7	19.2
1945	2,625	18.0	18.0

The illegitimate birth-rate remains high. In 1945, it was 13.3. The last high figure was in 1938, when it was 13.7.

Infantile Mortality

It is pleasing to be able to record that the infantile mortality rate—the number of deaths of children under one year per 1,000 live births—is steadily declining. In 1945, the infantile mortality rate was the lowest yet recorded in Aberdeenshire.

The infantile mortality rates, during the six years under review, together with the rates in Scotland as a whole, appear in Table XX.

TABLE XX

YEAR	LANDWARD AREA	BURGHs	TOTAL	SCOTLAND
1940 ...	71	71	70.8	78
1941 ...	56	67	59.1	83
1942 ...	54	64	53.7	69
1943 ...	51	71	56.5	65
1944 ...	47	64	52	65
1945 ...	36.3	51	40	56

The causes of infant deaths are given in Table XXI.

TABLE XXI

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS

CAUSES	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Infectious Diseases	15	15	6	9	19	4
Tuberculosis	9	2	2	3	1	—
Syphilis	—	2	—	1	1	3
Respiratory Disease	32	24	29	24	22	20
Digestive—Diarrhoea	10	10	8	4	9	6
Other	—	7	3	1	—	—
Convulsions	7	8	9	11	10	3
Congenital Maltormations	16	15	19	22	20	6
Congenital Debility	15	6	4	5	3	4
Prematurity	60	46	38	45	31	29
Injury at Birth	14	5	13	5	12	7
Other Causes	1	—	4	10	9	9
Unknown	—	10	15	13	6	9
Accidental Suffocation	4	4	2	5	1	6
Totals	183	154	152	158	144	106

Neo-natal Mortality

The neo-natal death-rate—the number of children dying within one month of birth—has declined gradually since 1940. The accompanying table gives a comparison between the neo-natal death-rate in Aberdeenshire and in Scotland.

TABLE XXII
NEO-NATAL DEATH-RATES

YEAR	COUNTY OF ABERDEEN	SCOTLAND
1940	37·1	37
1941	33·1	40
1942	25·1	35
1943	29	33
1944	24·6	33
1945	19·4	29

The causes of neo-natal deaths appear in Table XXIII.

TABLE XXIII

CAUSE	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
<i>Congenital Malformations—</i>						
Hydrocephalus	1	—	—	—	1	1
Spina Bifida, Meningocele	3	3	3	1	3	1
Congenital Heart Disease ...	3	3	3	1	3	2
Other Congenital Defects ...	12	9	9	14	9	4
<i>Diseases of Early Infancy—</i>						
Premature Birth	40	42	36	44	28	21
Injury at Birth	14	4	10	5	4	8
Debility	7	3	4	4	2	3
Asphyxia at Birth	3	2	3	3	5	1
Other Specified Causes ...	13	20	3	9	13	10
Totals	96	86	71	81	68	51

The chief causes of neo-natal deaths were prematurity, congenital defects and injuries at birth.

Deaths of Children between 1 and 5 Years

The numbers of children dying between 1 and 5 years and the causes of death are shown in the following Table :—

TABLE XXIV

DISEASES	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	15	7	2	5	3	3
Tuberculosis	12	6	7	7	7	4
Infectious Diseases	6	10	4	3	4	4
Diseases of the Nervous System	6	6	—	2	1	4
Violence	10	4	2	6	4	7
Other Causes	2	5	9	11	7	6
Totals	51	38	24	34	26	28

Still-Births

Since 1st January, 1939, all still-births have had to be registered. Table XXV. gives the numbers of still-births in each of the years under review. The causes of the still-births, so far as they could be ascertained, are also shown in this table.

TABLE XXV

CAUSES	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Prematurity	23	18	22	8	18	8
Chronic Disease of Mother	1	—	—	2	2	1
Acute Toxaemic Conditions	12	7	7	21	4	8
Accidental Haemorrhage	5	1	3	4	5	1
Ante-partum Haemorrhage	7	3	3	2	—	4
Placenta Praevia	1	2	—	5	1	—
Foetal Deformities	6	3	16	6	11	5
Torsion of Umbilical Cord	2	2	2	5	1	1
Prolapse of Cord	6	2	5	4	3	4
Malpresentations	7	11	9	4	14	9
Pelvic Deformities	1	—	—	4	—	—
Prolonged Labour—Uterine Inertia	4	4	5	—	1	—
Injury at Birth—Cerebral Haemorrhage	6	1	—	—	1	1
Asphyxia	3	2	2	7	2	3
Debility	—	—	—	2	1	1
Atelectasis	1	—	—	—	1	1
Macerated Foetus	2	—	5	5	1	2
Other Causes	2	2	11	—	—	22
Causes Unknown	15	16	19	5	16	13
Totals	104	74	109	84	82	84

Maternal Mortality

The number of deaths of women from causes associated with pregnancy and child birth is shown in Table XXVI.

TABLE XXVI

CAUSES	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Puerperal Sepsis	—	4	—	—	1	—
Other Puerperal Causes	8	5	5	5	1	4
Toxaemias, Other Accidents of Pregnancy	4	1	3	3	1	1
Placenta Praevia	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accidental Haemorrhage	2	2	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Albuminuria	—	—	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Phlegmasia Alba Dolens	—	—	1	—	—	1
Other Accidents of Child-birth	2	1	—	—	—	1
Other or Unspecified Puerperal Conditions	—	1	—	2	—	—
All Puerperal Causes	8	9	5	5	2	4

It is interesting to note that, in the quinquennium 1940-45, there were only 5 deaths from puerperal sepsis, 4 of these occurring in 1941.

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia

The figures for the years 1940-45 are fluctuating, but the introduction of sulphonamides and lately of penicillin has ensured a shorter course of illness and a lower degree of morbidity and mortality.

TABLE XXVII

	1940		1941		1942		1943		1944		1945	
	*P.F.	*P.P.	P.F.	P.P.	P.F.	P.P.	P.F.	P.P.	P.F.	P.P.	P.F.	P.P.
No. of Cases ...	12	17	21	12	5	13	15	13	19	6	16	6
No. of Deaths ...	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
No. of Cases admitted to City Hospital ...	11	14	16	8	3	9	13	7	19	3	14	4
No. of Cases in Other Institutions ...	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	3	—	1	—	—
No. of Cases treated at Home	1	3	3	2	2	4	1	3	—	2	2	2
No. of Cases notified by General Practitioners ...	10	14	18	8	5	11	14	8	18	6	16	6
No. of Cases notified by Doctors in Institutions	2	3	3	4	—	2	1	5	1	—	—	—
No. of Cases following abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1

*P.F.=Puerperal Fever: P.P.=Puerperal Pyrexia.

Home Visitation

The number of home visits made by the District Nurses is shown in Table XXVIII.

TABLE XXVIII

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Infants—						
First Visits ...	1,852	1,973	1,916	1,926	2,033	1,722
Total Visits ...	16,114	15,832	15,197	14,352	14,644	14,838
Children 1-5 Years—						
First Visits ...	622	537	1,001	694	859	882
Total Visits ...	13,464	15,406	14,282	14,352	14,668	13,983
Mothers—						
First Visits ...	1,550	1,715	1,992	1,632	1,728	1,913
Total Visits ...	4,513	5,466	6,230	7,207	5,921	6,154

In Table XXIX appears the work performed by the Health-Visitor-Midwives in the Fraserburgh and Peterhead areas.

TABLE XXIX

	1940		1941		1942		1943		1944		1945	
	*F.	*P.	F.	P.	F.	P.	F.	P.	F.	P.	F.	P.
Infants—												
First Visits ...	172	205	216	149	319	248	290	303	331	341	270	295
Total Visits ...	1,930	4,801	1,784	3,252	2,959	2,935	3,141	3,248	4,032	3,413	4,090	3,120
Children 1-5 Years												
First Visits ...	50	87	88	54	57	150	98	137	173	163	605	114
Total Visits ...	1,124	3,090	1,245	3,537	2,973	3,850	3,031	3,808	4,123	4,577	3,840	3,832
Confinements ...	175	13	140	55	187	71	172	56	298	73	286	63
Ante-natal Visits	—	—	—	—	1,266	297	1,622	345	3,047	818	3,301	1,302
Post-natal Visits	—	—	—	—	—	58	108	84	380	66	180	72

*F.=Fraserburgh: P.=Peterhead.

Child Welfare Clinics

Child Welfare Clinics were in operation at Ballater, Bucksburn, Culter, Ellon, Fraserburgh, Peterhead, Huntly, Inverurie and Turriff. During the war years, the enrolled number of babies under 1 year and of children between 1 and 5 years was very satisfactory. As is to be expected, the greatest number of attendances was at Peterhead and Fraserburgh Clinics. Now that the war is over, it is hoped that in certain of the burghs more suitable accommodation will be made available for clinic purposes.

Provision of Foods

With the introduction of the National Milk Scheme, the need for the supply of milk at the expense of the County Council diminished considerably. In necessitous cases, special foods are still given free or at reduced prices when their use is considered to be essential in the interests of the well-being of the children. In 1940, the Council distributed milk at a cost of £174 18s. 3d., whereas, in 1945, the sum so expended was only £4 1s. 1d. As regards special foods, however, the expenditure was in the reverse direction. In 1940, the Council expended £44 7s. 4d. on special foods; this expenditure increased year by year until, in 1945, it reached the sum of £181 8s. 8d.

The take-up of cod liver oil and vitamins was poor at first, but, in the later years of the war, it gradually increased, due mainly to the increase in the number of distribution centres.

Home-helps

During the war years, part-time home-helps continued to be supplied by the County Council. Suitable home-helps were very difficult to obtain.

Provision for Sick Children

Ailing children under five years of age were admitted to the Royal Aberdeen Hospital for Sick Children, to the special Ailing Babies' Ward at the Aberdeen City Hospital and to Thorngrove Home, Aberdeen. A limited number of beds is set aside in Linn Moor Convalescent Home, Culter, for the reception of pre-school children, between the ages of 3 and 5 years, who are in need of convalescent care.

War-time Nurseries

Following the national drive for the employment of women in industry, the Department of Health for Scotland erected two war-time nurseries, one in Peterhead, the other in Fraserburgh. The nurseries were for 40 and 50 children respectively and for children between one month and five years of age. The Department of Health undertook the total cost of running the nurseries and the charge made to the parents of the children was at the rate of 1s. per day.

The nursery in Peterhead was opened on 8th September, 1942, and that in Fraserburgh on 15th March, 1943. In 1945, the average number of attendances was high, the roll was up to capacity and the absences were few. At Peterhead nursery the numbers continued high, and it was interesting to note that the percentage of babies under one year was always considerable. In the summer of 1945, when the fishing season was over, the attendances at Fraserburgh nursery fell considerably.

The following were the average daily attendances:—

	<i>Peterhead</i>	<i>Fraserburgh</i>
1942	7	—
1943	21	21
1944	30	30
1945	37	26

Most of the mothers of children attending the Peterhead and Fraserburgh war-time nurseries were employed either in the fishing industry or in local factories.

A circular, issued by the Department of Health for Scotland towards the end of 1945 invited Local Authorities to meet and discuss the future of the war-time nurseries, and suggested the adoption of one of three courses:—

- (1) Retention of the nurseries under Maternity and Child Welfare control;
- (2) Transfer to the Education Committee;
- (3) Closure where no pressing need existed.

The trend at Fraserburgh appears to suggest the ultimate transference of the nursery to the Education Committee, and this will be discussed in the Annual Report for 1946.

SECTION III.

School Medical Services

Despite the many demands on the School Medical Officers' time, consequent on the outbreak of war, the routine medical inspection of children was carried out at most of the schools during the first three years of the war. In 1942, the Assistant Medical Officer, resident at Peterhead, joined the Services. He was succeeded for two short periods by temporary Assistant Medical Officers, with the result that there was an unavoidable curtailment of routine work at schools in the Buchan area and a consequent reduction in the number of children examined during the years 1943-45, as will be seen in Table XXX.

The Medical Staff also undertook, at short notice, at the end of June, 1940, the medical examination of 348 applicants under the Overseas Evacuation Scheme.

The number of schools and the average number of pupils on the roll are shown hereunder :

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	FOR THE YEARS					
	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
(a) Primary { Under Education Authority ...	223	223	223	223	221	220
(b) Secondary { ...	8	8	8	8	8	8
(c) (1) Special Schools	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) (2) Special Classes in Ordinary Schools ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
(d) In receipt of grant from Education Authority and under Medical Inspection	231	231	231	231	229	228
Average Roll	24,803	23,452	23,029	23,036	23,428	23,460

TABLE XXX

Total number of children examined at :—

	FOR THE YEARS					
	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
A. <i>Systematic Examinations</i> —						
Ordinary Schools { Entrants	2,620	2,470	2,541	2,371	1,923	2,337
{ Second Age Group	2,633	2,598	2,593	2,386	1,576	2,116
{ Third Age Group	1,326	1,360	1,605	1,673	1,229	1,063
{ Fourth Age Group	2	—	1	2	1	—
Secondary Schools { Third Age Group	690	477	668	115	231	226
{ Fourth Age Group	130	121	98	0	92	95
Totals	7,401	7,026	7,506	6,547	5,052	5,837
B. <i>Other Examinations</i> —						
Special Cases	886	754	699	937	1,176	1,171
Re-inspections by Medical Officers	1,940	2,152	2,110	2,541	1,156	1,098
Totals	2,826	2,906	2,809	3,478	2,332	2,269

Number of children inspected at systematic examinations, who were notified to parents as requiring treatment (excluding uncleanness and dental caries) :—

	FOR THE YEARS					
	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Entrants	402	300	497	395	270	302
Second Age Group	380	454	280	389	233	255
Third Age Group	290	204	227	239	170	112
Fourth Age Group	—	—	1	—	—	—
Secondary Age Group	25	12	17	8	10	3
Totals	1,097	970	1,022	1,031	683	672

TABLE XXXI

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN OF ALL AGES SUFFERING FROM PARTICULAR DEFECTS—1940-1945

NATURE OF DEFECT	1940		1941		1942		1943		1944		1945	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1. Clothing Unsatisfactory ...	53	0.7	36	0.5	38	0.5	20	0.3	22	0.4	26	0.4
2. Footgear Unsatisfactory ...	26	0.3	25	0.3	6	0.07	6	0.09	1	0.02	10	0.17
3. Uncleanliness (Head, Body or Both) ...	209	2.8	175	2.4	236	3.1	360	5.5	111	2.1	204	3.4
4. Skin—												
(a) Head ...	36	0.4	41	0.5	27	0.3	41	0.6	21	0.4	8	0.1
(b) Body ...	70	0.9	55	0.7	108	1.4	113	2.0	55	1.0	49	0.8
5. Nutritional State—												
(a) Slightly Defective ...	149	2.0	168	2.3	180	2.3	99	1.5	68	1.3	85	1.4
(b) Bad ...	4	0.05	5	0.07	3	0.04	3	0.05	1	0.02	6	0.1
6. Mouth and Teeth Unhealthy	160	2.1	117	1.6	87	1.1	119	1.8	56	1.1	86	1.4
7. Naso-pharynx—												
(a) Nose—Observation ...	91	1.2	117	1.6	267	3.5	135	2.0	143	2.8	163	2.8
Treatment ...	25	0.3	38	0.5	30	0.4	13	0.2	6	0.1	13	0.2
Other Conditions	22	0.2	6	0.08	5	0.06	8	0.1	4	0.08	8	0.1
(b) Throat—Observation ...	733	9.9	578	8.2	771	10.2	606	9.2	622	12.3	641	10.9
Treatment ...	271	4.4	315	4.4	553	7.1	361	5.3	223	4.4	253	4.3
(c) Glands—Observation ...	459	6.2	359	5.1	469	6.2	468	7.1	265	5.2	208	3.6
Treatment ...	5	0.06	4	0.05	6	0.07	15	0.2	1	0.02	4	0.07
8. Eyes—												
(a) External Diseases ...	332	4.4	240	3.4	202	2.6	182	2.7	128	2.5	136	2.3
(b) Visual Acuity ...	704	14.7	551	12.1	410	8.2	453	10.8	323	10.3	249	7.1
9. Ears—												
(a) Diseases—Otorrhoea ...	26	0.3	12	0.1	19	0.2	14	0.2	12	0.2	7	0.1
Other Diseases	28	0.3	11	0.3	6	0.07	15	0.2	11	0.2	9	0.1
(b) Hearing—Grade 11a ...	2	0.02	5	0.07	2	0.02	5	0.07	4	0.07	1	0.03
Grade 11b ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grade 111 ...	—	—	—	—	1	0.02	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Speech—												
(a) Defective Articulation	24	0.3	33	0.4	6	0.07	36	0.5	19	0.3	5	0.1
(b) Stammering ...	12	0.1	3	0.08	6	0.07	9	0.1	6	0.1	5	0.1
11. Mental and Nervous Condition												
Backward or Dull ...	24	0.3	31	0.4	33	0.4	29	0.4	22	0.4	26	0.4
M.D. (Educable) ...	5	0.06	6	0.08	1	0.01	3	0.04	8	0.1	11	0.2
M.D. (Ineducable) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	0.03	—	—	4	0.07
Nervous or Unstable ...	7	0.09	4	0.05	1	0.01	10	0.1	2	0.04	7	0.1
Difficult Behaviour ...	1	0.01	1	0.01	2	0.02	—	—	6	0.2	—	—
12. Heart—												
(a) Organic—Congenital ...	7	0.09	7	0.09	—	—	14	0.2	5	0.1	9	0.15
Acquired ...	19	0.2	46	0.6	45	0.5	25	0.3	13	0.2	25	0.4
(b) Functional ...	112	1.5	122	1.7	218	2.9	48	0.7	85	1.6	124	2.1
13. Lungs—												
Chronic Bronchitis ...	56	0.7	39	0.5	55	0.7	96	1.4	29	0.5	21	0.3
Suspected Tuberculosis ...	7	0.09	10	0.1	8	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases ...	26	0.3	15	0.2	24	0.3	9	0.1	11	0.2	17	0.2
14. Deformities—												
(a) Congenital ...	28	0.3	19	0.2	12	0.1	15	0.2	10	0.2	5	0.1
(b) Acquired—Infantile												
Paralysis	8	0.1	7	0.09	1	0.01	10	0.1	7	0.1	6	0.1
—Rickets ...	17	0.2	12	0.1	25	0.3	9	0.1	10	0.2	4	0.09
—Other ...	18	0.2	14	0.19	29	0.3	11	0.2	2	0.04	18	0.3
15. Infectious Diseases ...	65	0.8	66	0.9	125	1.6	146	2.2	54	1.1	55	0.9
16. Other Diseases or Defects ...	71	0.9	96	0.3	130	1.7	164	2.5	70	1.4	67	1.1

TABLE XXXII

CLASSIFICATION OF SYSTEMATIC MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS—1940-1945

CLASSIFICATION	1940		1941		1942		1943		1944		1945	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
I. Children free from defects	4,998	67.5	4,871	69.3	5,262	70.1	4,512	69.0	3,594	71.0	4,103	70.3
II. Children (otherwise free from defect) who suffer from—												
(a) Defective vision not worse than 6/12 in the better eye with or without glasses	384	5.2	316	4.5	323	4.4	215	3.3	156	3.0	234	4.0
(b) Condition of the mouth and teeth requiring treatment	86	1.2	52	0.8	50	0.6	47	0.7	17	0.3	91	1.5
(c) Both (a) and (b)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
III. Children suffering from ailments (other than those mentioned in II) from which complete recovery is anticipated within a few weeks	1,590	21.5	1,622	23.0	1,660	22.2	1,473	22.5	983	19.5	1,230	21.1
IV. Children with defect less remediable than defects in II or III—												
(a) Where complete cure is considered possible	254	3.4	128	1.9	169	2.2	166	2.5	260	5.4	146	2.6
(b) Where improvement only is considered possible	89	1.2	37	0.5	42	0.5	134	2.0	41	0.8	33	0.5
Total number of children examined ...	7,401	100.0	7,026	100.0	7,506	100.0	6,547	100.0	5,052	100.0	5,837	100.0

TABLE XXXIII

MEDICAL TREATMENT—1940-1945

	1940		1941		1942		1943		1944		1945	
	L.A.	P.	L.A.	P.	L.A.	P.	L.A.	P.	L.A.	P.	L.A.	P.
A. Minor Ailments												
1. Cuts, Bruises, Sprains, Minor Injuries, etc. ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Diseases of the Ear ...	—	12	—	13	—	17	2	20	—	7	—	8
3. Diseases of Eye (excluding Defective Vision) ...	9	36	—	22	7	18	3	32	3	2	12	5
4. Diseases of Skin—												
Ringworm ...	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scabies ...	—	32	38	33	—	102	4	66	—	17	—	18
Impetigo ...	—	22	—	8	—	13	—	35	—	12	—	8
Other Diseases ...	—	6	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	22	—	5
B. Defective Vision and Squint ...	328	16	429	28	474	15	540	34	324	13	281	9
C. Nose and Throat (Operative Treatment) ...	—	65	—	114	—	166	—	101	—	92	—	57
D. Orthopaedic and Postural Defects (Specialist Treatment)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

L.A. = Local Authority.

P. = Privately.

Dental Inspection and Treatment

The work of the dental surgeons, both whole-time and part-time, is shown in detail in Tables XXXIV and XXXV.

The whole-time dental surgeons carried out duties other than those connected with school children. They inspected and treated ailing children resident in Linn Moor Convalescent Home, Culter; tuberculous patients in the County Hospital, Strichen, and Newhills Sanatorium, Bucksburn; infectious cases in the County Hospital, Inverurie; public assistance patients in Maud Home and mental cases in the Royal Mental Hospital, Aberdeen, and in Daviot Mental Home. The annual number of patients so treated in each of the six years covered by this Report was remarkably stationary and varied from 208 to 243. The number of treatments fluctuated from 436 in 1942 to the highest figure—561 in 1941.

The Chief Dental Officer and his assistants are cognisant of the value of conservative treatment and practice it whenever possible.

TABLE XXXIV

DENTAL INSPECTION FOR THE YEARS 1940-45

AGE IN YEARS	WHOLE-TIME DENTAL SURGEONS										PART-TIME DENTAL SURGEONS														
	SYSTEMATIC EXAMINATION DURING THE YEARS—										SPECIAL AND EMERGENCY CASES DURING THE YEARS					SYSTEMATIC EXAMINATION DURING THE YEARS—					SPECIAL AND EMERGENCY CASES DURING THE YEARS—				
	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	
5 ...	346	473	743	689	703	871	7	15	2	12	7	14	92							3					
6 ...	1,507	1,625	1,560	2,018	1,791	1,811	13	7	12	6	11	18	151							2					
7 ...	1,698	1,850	1,830	1,700	1,844	1,707	18	10	4	6	4	7	183							8					
8 ...	1,569	1,928	1,886	1,737	1,631	1,699	—	2	11	—	13	9	178							—					
9 ...	1,649	1,917	2,126	1,599	1,709	1,735	4	4	13	—	2	11	170							—					
10 ...	1,688	1,938	2,123	1,588	1,747	1,793	12	—	6	13	9	15	157							—					
11 ...	1,655	1,845	2,143	1,696	1,609	1,785	8	7	—	19	—	8	163							—					
12 ...	1,467	1,913	1,679	1,722	1,753	1,774	9	8	2	7	—	12	187							—					
13 ...	1,444	1,523	1,828	1,773	1,983	1,482	4	13	7	—	14	16	241							—					
14 ...	545	526	915	1,129	987	538	—	2	—	12	—	11	87							—					
15 and over ...	383	171	381	269	301	399	4	7	—	12	7	7	49							—					
Totals	13,951	15,709	17,114	15,920	16,058	15,594	79	75	57	77	67	128	1,667	1,736	1,195	507	699	466	13	—	—	—	—	—	
Percentage of children with sound teeth ...	31.3	40.0	33.0	44.0	44.5	44.6							26.4	27.6	36.0	32.0	41.0	47.0							

TABLE XXXV

DENTAL TREATMENTS—1940-1945

(1) *By Whole-time Dental Surgeons*

	ABERDEENSHIRE CHILDREN						EVACUEE CHILDREN					
	1940	1941	1942	1942	1944	1945	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Number requiring treatment ...	9,589	9,359	11,369	8,859	8,912	8,620	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number actually treated ...	5,725	5,846	6,991	5,520	5,232	5,390	179	252	222	41	—	—
Number of extractions—												
Temporary ...	7,961	8,012	6,470	6,558	5,319	5,939	215	314	281	44	—	—
Permanent ...	3,971	2,913	2,837	2,321	1,932	2,065	158	153	90	22	—	—
Number of fillings—												
Temporary ...	396	401	548	409	245	167	2	3	2	2	—	—
Permanent ...	3,156	3,309	3,001	3,050	2,507	2,955	16	83	80	2	—	—
Other operations ...	643	784	861	891	671	637	—	—	—	—	—	—

(2) *By Part-time Dental Surgeons*

	ABERDEENSHIRE CHILDREN						EVACUEE CHILDREN					
	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Number requiring treatment ...	1,226	1,255	763	340	412	247	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number actually treated ...	809	658	449	286	305	231	21	5	14	—	—	—
Number of extractions—												
Temporary ...	991	630	411	432	318	280	16	6	17	—	—	—
Permanent ...	404	370	276	152	120	69	13	3	3	—	—	—
Number of fillings												
Temporary ...	47	60	23	4	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Permanent ...	86	105	53	50	32	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other operations ...	31	13	23	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

SECTION IV.

Tuberculosis Services

The advent of war necessitated the transfer of County patients from Woodend Hospital and the City Hospital, Aberdeen, to the County Hospital, Strichen, and to Newhills Sanatorium, Bucksburn. Many of these patients were undergoing collapse therapy. Early in 1941, pulmonary tuberculous patients were admitted to the new County Hospital at Inverurie. During the six years under review, the beds for patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis in these institutions were filled to capacity and the simpler forms of collapse therapy were initiated and maintained in these hospitals. A small "portable" X-ray apparatus was acquired in October, 1941, to assist in the control of these cases.

In consequence of these changes, the work of the medical staff was altered, much time being spent on actually treating and supervising the treatment of patients, with the result that domiciliary visitation and the holding of clinics throughout the County were curtailed. Inverurie Clinic was suspended altogether. There was one clinic at Huntly every four weeks, and, for many months, the clinics at Fraserburgh and Peterhead were also held four-weekly.

Although the number of the Services personnel who contracted tuberculosis is not shown in the returns of Local Authorities, Aberdeenshire ex-Service men and women were treated in the three Institutions in the County as well as in Woodend Hospital and the City Hospital, Aberdeen, which latter institutions were again made available in 1940 for the reception of tuberculous cases. Indeed, at one time, ex-Service patients accounted for almost one-half of the male patients under treatment. There was never, at any time, a waiting list for beds, and several City of Aberdeen cases were admitted to Inverurie and Strichen Hospitals.

The increased attendances at the Central Dispensary, 4 Albyn Place, Aberdeen, were due in some part to the visits of ex-Service patients concerning whom the Ministry of Pensions required reports.

Notifications

The average number of notifications and the distribution of the cases into pulmonary and non-pulmonary groups are shown below for the quinquennium 1940 to 1944 and for the year 1945.

TABLE XXXVI

	NOTIFIED	PULMONARY	NON-PULMONARY	" PROVED " PULMONARY	" PROVED " NON-PULMONARY
Average Number					
1940-44	144	52	92	44	80
1945	113	43	70	28	61

The total number of "transfer" notifications for the years 1940 to 1945 was 52.

The total number of re-notified cases for the years 1940 to 1945 was 55.

The following Tables XXXVII and XXXVIII give the age and sex groups for pulmonary and non-pulmonary hospital cases during the years 1940 to 1945.

TABLE XXXVII

DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIED CASES IN AGE AND SEX GROUPS

YEAR	PULMONARY CASES																	
	Under 5		5-10		10-15		15-25		25-35		35-45		45-65		65 and Over		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1940	2	1	—	2	2	1	6	8	6	12	7	5	4	5	1	—	28	34
1941	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	10	6	3	2	5	4	4	2	1	20	24
1942	—	1	1	—	2	—	7	7	4	7	4	3	7	2	1	—	26	20
1943	—	1	—	—	1	1	4	11	3	9	3	—	4	4	3	—	18	26
1944	—	—	2	1	—	1	4	11	8	9	9	4	10	1	4	—	37	27
1945	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	5	10	3	4	4	4	6	1	1	23	20

TABLE XXXVIII

YEAR	NON-PULMONARY CASES																	
	Under 5		5-10		10-15		15-25		25-35		35-45		45-65		65 and Over		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1940 ...	18	7	14	12	4	5	8	15	1	6	1	4	—	2	1	1	47	52
1941 ...	5	7	13	6	14	6	3	12	4	3	2	4	2	5	1	—	44	43
1942 ...	5	9	10	7	7	8	10	7	6	8	2	1	4	3	—	—	44	43
1943 ...	17	5	14	8	6	7	15	14	1	4	2	1	1	1	—	—	56	40
1944 ...	11	12	12	8	8	8	6	7	2	5	1	5	2	4	—	—	42	49
1945 ...	13	14	4	6	4	6	6	7	1	2	1	4	—	1	1	—	30	40

In Table XXXIX, particulars of the localisation of the disease in non-pulmonary "proved" cases are given.

TABLE XXXIX

NON-PULMONARY CASES—LOCALISATION OF DISEASE IN "PROVED" CASES

	GLANDS	BONES AND JOINTS	BRAIN MEMBRANES	ABDOMEN	OTHER SITES	TOTAL
Average Number of Cases, 1940-44 ...	44·6	10·6	7·0	11·2	7·0	80
Number of Cases, 1945 ...	43	4	6	5	3	61

Mortality

The mortality from all forms of tuberculosis during the years 1940 to 1945 is given in Table XL. This table shows the total number of deaths and the death-rates per 1,000 population.

TABLE XL

MORTALITY (ALL FORMS OF TUBERCULOSIS)

YEAR	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Total Number of Deaths ...	65	59	61	54	50	57
Death-rate per 1,000 Population	·46	·42	·45	·40	·37	·42

In Table XLI are given the ages at death of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis in five age groups.

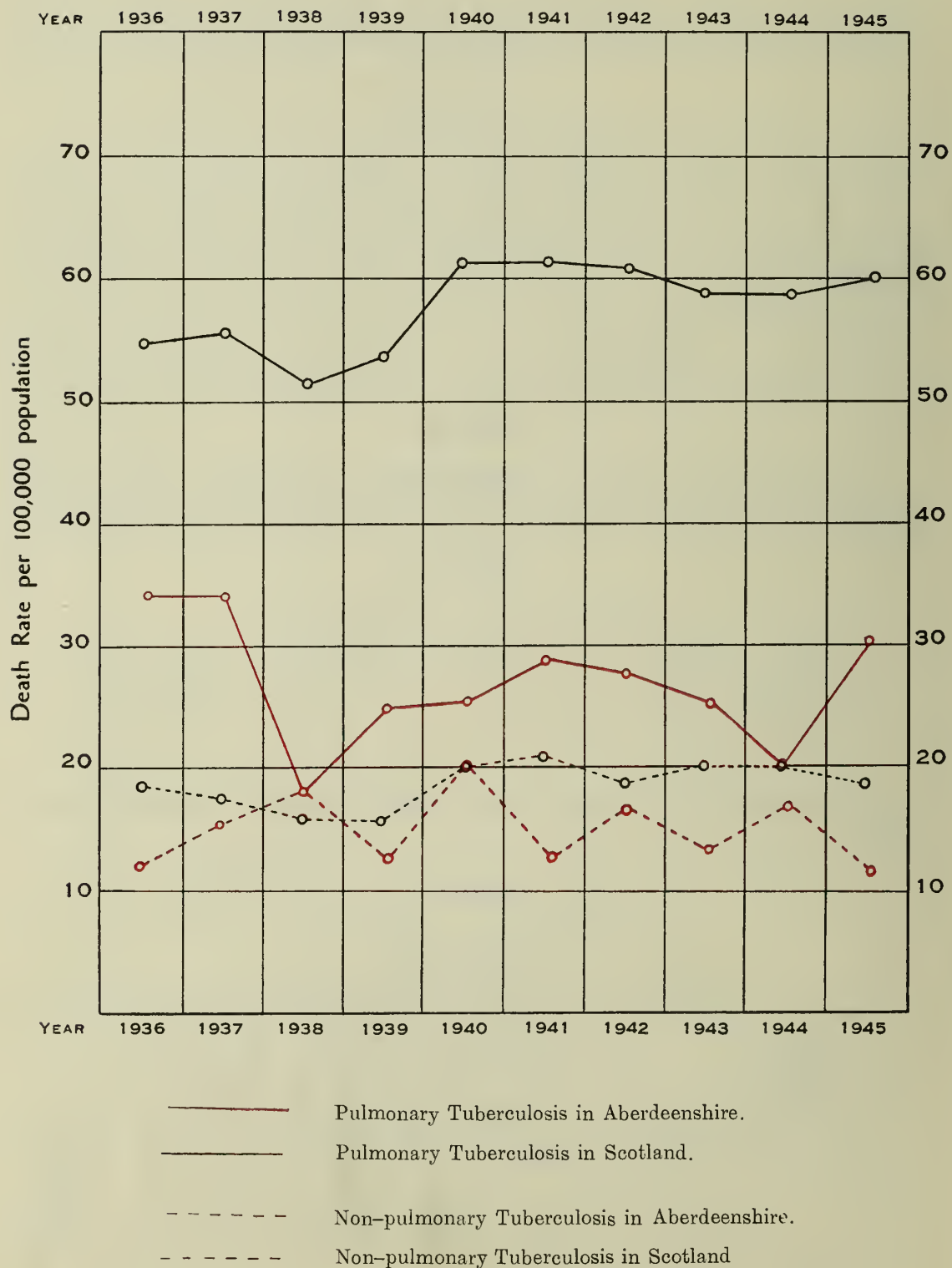
TABLE XLI

AGES AT DEATH (PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS)

AGE GROUP	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Under 15 Years ...	2	—	—	4	—	1
15-25 Years ...	6	6	10	6	8	8
25-45 Years ...	18	21	13	17	9	19
45-65 Years ...	7	9	15	5	7	7
Over 65 Years ...	4	4	—	4	3	5
Total Number of Deaths ...	37	40	38	36	27	40
Death-rate per 1,000 Population	·26	·29	·28	·26	·20	·30

The tuberculosis mortality in Aberdeenshire and in Scotland over a period of 10 years is shown graphically in the accompanying Chart.

Chart showing Tuberculosis Mortality
per 100,000 population
(1936-1945).



Treatment

(a) *Institutional.*

The number of pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases who received institutional treatment during the war years were :—

TABLE XLII

YEAR			PULMONARY	NON-PULMONARY
1940	...	...	63	65
1941	...	...	47	52
1942	...	...	48	62
1943	...	...	59	62
1944	...	...	55	66
1945	...	...	52	56

The total number of children admitted to Linn Moor Convalescent Home, Culter, during the years 1940 to 1945 was 271.

(b) *Dispensary.*

From 1940 to 1945 inclusive, 1,736 patients paid 2,628 visits to the Central Clinic, 4 Albyn Place, Aberdeen. During the same period, 611 patients paid 1,496 visits to the three other dispensaries situated at Huntly, Fraserburgh and Peterhead. Full particulars as regards the Peterhead attendances are not available, as the registers were destroyed by enemy action.

(c) *Domiciliary.*

As in the past, special foods were allowed in selected cases, so far as rationing restrictions would permit. Forty-five patients occupied County shelters during the war years.

(d) *Tuberculosis Allowances Scheme.*

The object of this Scheme, which commenced in the County in August, 1943, is to enable patients to undergo treatment without financial anxiety in respect of the family or home. The Scheme is at present limited in its application, in that the allowances are granted only to those patients who are suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and who, after treatment, have a reasonable prospect of being made fit for work, in approximately two years. Money is given to support wife and family, to pay rent, fuel and insurance premiums or, when there are no dependants, for the buying of small necessities when in hospital.

From 1943 to 1945, 91 patients were paid allowances.

(f) **X-ray Examinations.**

Skiagrams of the chest and of other parts of the body were taken as under :—

TABLE XLIII

YEAR			1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Pulmonary Cases	...		265	525	501	623	812	731
Non-pulmonary Cases	...		43	127	141	129	155	179
Barium Meals	...	...	2	—	3	4	—	—
Tomograms	...	...	—	—	—	4	14	16

SECTION V.

Venereal Diseases Services

Under war conditions, an increase in venereal diseases was to be expected, but, in the County, it was not until 1943 that the civilian figures reached their peak. It has to be borne in mind, however, that the civilian ranks had been depleted of the age groups in which these diseases usually occur.

During the war years, the incidence of known cases of syphilis and gonorrhoea was practically equal. In 1942, there were only 39 new civilian cases of gonorrhoea, as against 52 cases of syphilis. As a rule, the ratio of gonorrhoea to syphilis is two or three to one.

Penicillin, which became available for civilian use in 1945, may be considered one of the greatest advances in the treatment of venereal diseases. It is, so far, the best method of treatment in gonorrhoea, being quick, safe and effective. Regarding syphilis, treatment by penicillin may be regarded as being still in the experimental stage.

The following Tables, XLIV and XLV, show the incidence of the diseases in each of the six years covered by this Report.

TABLE XLIV

INCIDENCE OF VENEREAL DISEASES—CIVILIAN CASES ONLY

YEAR	INCIDENCE					TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES	TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTEND- ANCES	TOTAL LABORA- TORY EXAMINA- TIONS
	Syphilis	Gonorr- hoea	Chancre	Non- specific Venereal Infections	Other Con- ditions			
1940 ...	35	39	1	23	24	122	3,002	2,403
1941 ...	45	46	1	38	18	148	3,033	3,354
1942 ...	52	39	—	41	24	156	3,194	1,974
1943 ...	48	43	—	47	57	195	4,098	2,722
1944 ...	30	32	1	41	61	165	2,728	2,337
1945 ...	30	43	—	38	68	179	2,652	2,295

TABLE XLV

INCIDENCE OF VENEREAL DISEASES—ALL CASES

YEAR	INCIDENCE					TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES	TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDANCES
	Syphilis	Gonorrhoea	Chancre	Non-specific Venereal Infections	Other Conditions		
1940	66	70	1	30	32	199	3,203
1941	104	158	3	83	33	381	3,979
1942	78	96	2	79	41	296	3,777
1943	77	79	1	86	79	322	4,630
1944	59	56	1	64	73	253	3,015
1945	33	56	—	54	83	226	2,884

SECTION VI.

Bacteriological Services

The County bacteriological work is performed by Dr. John Smith, at the City Laboratory, Urquhart Road, Aberdeen.

The following is a record of the work carried out for the County Council for the year ended 31st December, 1945, and for the years 1940-44 :—

	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	TOTAL	GRAND TOTALS	
	1945	1945	1945	1945	1940-44 (Average)
<i>Diphtheria</i> —					
Throat, nose and ear swabs	81	1,201	1,282	1,282	2,000
<i>Tuberculosis</i> —					
Sputum	287	544	831		
Faeces	0	1	1		
Pus	2	17	19		
Urines	0	32	32		
Cerebro-spinal fluids	1	0	1		
Pleural fluids	0	9	9		
Gastric contents	0	12	12	905	1,010
<i>Typhoid Fever</i> —					
Blood cultures	0	6	6		
Widals	2	41	43		
Faeces	1	2	3		
Urines	1	3	4	56	124
<i>Para-typhoid Fever</i> —					
Widals	1	46	47		
Faeces	0	6	6		
Blood cultures	0	5	5		
Urines	0	7	7	65	87
<i>Undulant Fever</i> —					
Blood agglutinations	0	52	52	52	77
<i>Bacillary Dysentery</i> —					
Faeces	103	276	379	379	397
<i>Amoebic Dysentery</i> —					
Faeces	0	2	2	2	—
<i>Weil's Disease</i> —					
Blood agglutinations	1	4	5	5	4
<i>Venereal Diseases</i> —					
Bloods and C.S.F.'s for Wassermann					
Reaction	129	588	717		
Bloods for Laughlen test	145	565	710		
Smears for gonococci	49	809	858		
Bloods for gonococcal complement fixation					
test	1	9	10	2,295	2,080
<i>Biochemical Examinations</i> —					
Blood sugars	—	—	31		
Blood ureas	—	—	99		
Urine sugars	—	—	13		
Urine ureas	—	—	0		
Faeces for blood	—	—	55		
Faeces for fat	—	—	2		
Urine for bile	—	—	0		
Icteric Index	—	—	9		
Van den Bergh	—	—	9		
Blood sedimentation rate	—	—	12		
Bloods for W.F. 301	—	—	7		
Miscellaneous	—	—	15	252	260
<i>Food Poisoning</i> —					
Food stuffs	—	—	1	1	7

	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	TOTAL	GRAND TOTALS	
	1945	1945	1945	1945	1940-44 (Average)
<i>General Examinations—</i>					
Vincent's bacilli	—	—	59		
Blood cultures	—	—	30		
Blood counts	—	—	323		
Differential cell counts	—	—	242		
Vaccines	—	—	12		
Histological specimens	—	—	52		
Faeces for protozoa	—	—	14		
Cervical swabs	—	—	23		
Sputum for organisms	—	—	35		
Throat, nose and ear swabs for organisms	—	—	600		
Eye swabs for organisms	—	—	15		
Chest pus and fluids for organisms ...	—	—	10		
Other pus and fluids for organisms ...	—	—	70		
Cerebro-spinal fluids (other than tubercu- lous or luetic)	—	—	18		
Urines : Pathological examination ...	—	—	345		
bacteriological examination ...	—	—	312		
Waters : bacteriological examination ...	—	—	95		
chemical examination	—	—	10		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	8	8	8	
Bloods for malaria	2	8	10	10	
Bloods for Paul Bunnell	0	3	3	3	
Milks : bacterial count	—	—	1,132		
fat estimation	—	—	1,216		
organisms	—	—	2		
methylene blue	—	—	688		
phosphatase test	—	—	3		
Seminal fluids	—	—	2		
Miscellaneous	—	—	5		
				5,334	4,431
<i>Animal Inoculation—</i>					
Guinea pigs inoculated with milk deposit for tubercle bacilli	—	—	492		
Guinea pigs inoculated with human material for tubercle bacilli	—	—	98		
Guinea pigs inoculated with cultures of B. diphtheriae for virulence test	—	—	2		
Rabbits inoculated with urine for Friedman test	—	—	16	608	427
				11,236	10,904

SECTION VII.

The Nursing Services

There are 41 District Nursing Associations, affiliated to the County Nursing Association, and employing 43 District Nurses. The areas in the County not yet covered by District Nursing Associations are:—Boddam, St. Fergus, Crimond and Lonmay with St. Combs, Inverallochy and Cairnbulg, and the coastal area extending west of Fraserburgh, including Sandhaven, Pitullie and Roseheart. Health-Visitor-Midwives, however, have been appointed to cover all those areas. These Health-Visitor-Midwives undertake all statutory duties, but do not carry out general nursing. With one exception, all the District Nurses undertake statutory duties which include attendance on midwifery cases under the Maternity Services Scheme, visitation of expectant and nursing mothers, of children up to the age of 5 years, of school children, of boarded-out children and of tuberculous cases. The exception is the nurse at Dinnet and Glentannar, who is under the jurisdiction of a private Nursing Association.

Forty Nursing Associations in the County have availed themselves of the services of the County Superintendent for the supervision of general nursing as well as of statutory work. In the remaining area, the nurse is inspected as regards statutory work only.

Each District Nursing Association receives £100 per annum from the County Council in respect of the nurse's work under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, the scheme for the Medical Inspection and Treatment of School Children, the Tuberculosis Scheme, for attendance on sick persons in receipt of Public Assistance and for the visitation of boarded-out children. This sum is the basic grant and in some instances supplementary grants have been given. The three conditions governing this supplement are that: (1) the area is sparsely populated, (2) a sincere local effort for self-support has been made, and (3) motor transport has been provided for the nurse. Where District Nursing Associations can show due cause, grants varying from £15 to £40 have been given by the County Nursing Association towards the purchase or renewal of cars.

The Scheme under the Maternity Services (Scotland) Act, 1937, was put into operation in January, 1940. The whole County is covered by the scheme and all the District Nursing Associations receive annually grants varying from £10 to £80 in respect of these services. The total sum thus expended in the year 1944 to 1945 was £1,680.

In 1945, as in previous years, the Inspector of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing visited the Queen's Nurses in Aberdeenshire and submitted the following report on their work:—

“During the months of March, April and May, a round of inspection was carried out in Aberdeenshire by Miss Cameron. With the exception of Strathdon, where the nurse was on sick leave, a visit was paid to each of the affiliated District Nursing Associations. In all, 39 nurses were inspected—38 Queen's Nurses and the one non-Queen's at Oldmachar

The standard of work seen was very satisfactory. The routine was good and the nurses fitted into their districts very well. Their pleasant, kindly manner and tact, both in their nursing and Public Health visiting, were obviously much appreciated by the people.

The nurses were interested in their Public Health work, and got a good reception in the homes when they paid their visits in connection with Child Welfare.

Housing of the nurses is good, though in some areas suitable rooms are difficult to find. There are still a few nurses resident in hotels, which is not an ideal arrangement. It is not very restful and there is a lack of privacy.

Motor transport is provided in all but five of the areas. In these districts, the nurses have permission to hire when necessary. Some of the cars are very old and long past their best. It was a very generous gesture of the Bucksburn Charities Committee to make themselves responsible for a car for their nurse, and it is understood that the people in Dyce are now interesting themselves in raising funds with which to purchase a car.”

SECTION VIII.

Public Assistance Medical Service

MAUD HOME

Unfortunately, it has not yet been possible to convert Maud Home into a "one-purpose" Institution. There are still admitted to the Home, the ordinary poor, the sick poor and fatuous lunatics. The Home is licensed to receive 26 male and 26 female mental patients, who are seen by the Visiting Physician at his routine visits.

On 1st January, 1940, there were 9 patients in the sick wards of the Home, and during the six years under review, 177 sick patients were treated; 31 sick persons remained in the Home at the end of 1945.

The majority of the cases treated in the Home are of the elderly senile type who require a considerable amount of nursing. The nursing staff consists of the Matron, who is a trained nurse, and three assistant nurses.

The patients requiring active medical and surgical treatment are transferred for appropriate treatment to the Voluntary or Municipal Hospital in the City of Aberdeen.

Medicines and medical appliances were stated to be adequate.

The Visiting Physicians are Dr. Dickson, Old Deer, and Dr. Crombie, New Deer, who act for a year at a time. These medical men have each to be congratulated on the excellent work which they have performed under difficult circumstances.

The Home is an old building which, in the post-war period, will require a considerable amount of reconstruction to bring it up to modern standards.

SECTION IX.

Evacuation and Billeting

When, at the beginning of the war, evacuation and billeting commenced, matters did not run too smoothly. After a time, however, a more understanding relationship was established. In Aberdeenshire, the numbers of evacuees gradually diminished until, in December, 1944, only 354 remained out of 1,191 which was the number billeted at the end of 1940. Of those evacuee children who remained, it can be said that there was a marked improvement in their health, habits and appearance. Some of their guardians were even unwilling to part with them and wished to continue to maintain the children at their own expense.

Expectant mothers raised a problem in the County, but this was solved by the setting up of three Emergency Maternity Homes. Two of these closed down soon after being opened, but the third, at Haddo House, functioned until 1945.

A statement relating to the activities of the Emergency Maternity Homes is given in the section of this Report dealing with Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

The following information is extracted from a Progress Report, dated 26th June, 1945, by the Chief Reception Officer :—

“ It is to the credit of the Chief Billeting Officers and assistants that, after a ‘ lull ’ in billeting when the flying bomb attacks brought a tremendous number of people to Scotland, all were found billets with little difficulty. Everything went smoothly and householders appeared to co-operate very willingly and with a keenness which was surprising, particularly during the summer months when most country villages are crowded out with visitors. A letter of thanks on behalf of the Council is being sent to each Billeting Officer, both Chief and Assistant. In actual administration, the winding up of the scheme has brought many difficulties, but collection of equipment seems to be the worst problem. Billeting Officers have been unable to obtain anything like the number of blankets, sheets, etc., issued, but after almost six years of constant wear, together with the problem of enuretic children, it is not surprising that bedding is really unfit to return. Comparatively few claims for damage were lodged, and those have been settled amicably in each case. The release of London and Metropolitan boroughs meant arrangements for the return of a little over 300 mothers with children. This has now been accomplished just on 8 weeks after the receipt of the official instructions. The most careful consideration has been given to each doubtful case, and billeting allowance withdrawn only after ample notice had been given. One or two mothers returned at their own expense, but it has not been possible to make any refund. A start will be made to withdraw from Chief Billeting Officers stocks of official documents in their possession. In parishes where evacuees remain, one book will be left for current use. Many enquiries have been and are daily being received in regard to the disposal of blankets, sheets, rugs and tweed lengths purchased by the Council in 1939. No instructions have been received from the Department except in regard to the Sick Bay equipment. This may be purchased by the Local Authority for use in its own services but not for resale.”

SECTION X.

Synopsis of Reports of Sanitary Inspectors.

I. DISTRICTS —

(1) Central Division	...	...	...	...	Mr. J. Brady (Interim).
(2) Buchan Division	...	...	...	...	Mr. D. L. Gough.
(3) Strathbogie Division	...	...	...	...	Mr. R. Easton
(4) Mar Division	...	...	...	...	Mr. G. Watt.

II. BURGHS —

(1) Ballater	...	...	...	...	Mr. G. Watt.
(2) Ellon	...	...	...	...	Mr. D. L. Gough.
(3) Huntly	...	...	...	...	Mr. W. J. R. Guthrie.
(4) Inverurie	...	...	...	...	Mr. W. W. Conner.
(5) Kintore	...	...	...	...	Mr. J. Brady (Interim).
(6) Oldmeldrum	...	...	...	...	Mr. J. Brady (Interim).
(7) Rosehearty	...	...	...	...	Mr. D. L. Gough.
(8) Turriff	...	...	...	...	Mr. D. Turnbull.
(9) Peterhead	...	...	...	...	Mr. J. Coull.
(10) Fraserburgh	...	...	...	...	Mr. G. Stewart.

I. DISTRICTS.

(1) CENTRAL DIVISION.

Milk:

The Interim Divisional Sanitary Inspector reported that during the six war years there were 310 registered dairy premises, 146 of which produced designated milk. Of the 146 producers, 3 held licences for Certified milk, 59 for T.T. milk and 84 for Standard milk. The general tendency in the Central Division is towards the production of high-grade milk.

In 1945, 5,891,705 gallons of milk were produced in this Division.

Inspection of Meat:

From 1940 to 1945, 378,842 carcasses were examined and the weight of meat condemned was 397 tons. In 1945, there were killed and inspected 58,154 animals comprising 5,532 bovines, 14,480 sheep and 38,142 pigs; of the total, 248 carcasses were wholly condemned and 364 partially. Those animals were inspected at Inverurie Slaughterhouse and at Dyce Bacon Factory.

Water Supplies:

In the years 1940 to 1945, fifty-six new water supplies were installed and 379 water supplies were analysed.

Drainage:

In this six year period, 345 drainage systems were laid down and 462 smoke tests were carried out. Water-closets were provided in 365 instances. Two-hundred and sixty-three new sinks and 259 new bathrooms were installed.

In the Central Division, the question of Scavenging is a very vexatious one as facilities for collection are not available at many of the schools and hamlets; in particular, difficulty was experienced with the scavenging of Kemnay and Kintore.

Factories, etc.:

Under the Factories Act, 1937, 376 visits were made. In connection with Offensive Trades, 972 inspections were carried out.

Salvage:

Nine-hundred and fifty-six tons 12 cwt. 4½ lbs. of material were salvaged and this realised £1,637 15s. 6½d.

(2) BUCHAN DIVISION.

Milk:

In this Division, the number of dairies varied but little in the war years. In 1945, ordinary milk was produced at 96 dairies, Standard at 34 and Certified and T.T. at 5 each.

The Divisional Sanitary Inspector properly draws attention to the unregistered dairies of which there are 19 in his Division.

The number of samples of milk taken for examination was 1,634 and in approximately 70 per cent. the samples were bacteriologically satisfactory.

In 1944 and 1945, there was a considerable drive towards "clean" milk production initiated by the Milk Officer whose work has been most successful.

Inspection of Meat, etc.:

The slaughtering of animals was, during the war years, carried out at central points and the services of the Sanitary Inspector as Detention Officer were required only for casualties. In the years 1940 to 1945, there were 1,223 casualties in the district, comprising bovines, sheep and pigs. Of this number, 547 were passed as fit for human consumption, 240 were seized wholly and 436 were seized partially.

A large and varied amount of foodstuffs was examined. Some of these foods were dates, canned foods, potatoes, carrots, onions and frozen pig. Many inspections were made at shops for the purpose of condemning foodstuffs.

Water Supplies:

As regards water supplies, the number of samples taken for chemical and bacteriological examination was 244 and the total number of inspections of water supplies made during the six years was 622.

Cleansing Services:

During the war an efficient Cleansing Service was established in the Buchan Division and the scavenging of certain naval stations was undertaken by the Deer District Council. By the end of 1945, 16 out of 20 Special Districts were participating in this Scavenging Scheme. It is likely that this Scheme will form the nucleus of a comprehensive Scavenging Scheme for the whole County.

Factories Act, 1937:

The number of factories and workshops in the Buchan Division was 324 and the total number of visits made to these during the six years was 275.

Salvage:

A very considerable amount of salvage was collected in the Deer District under the supervision of the Divisional Sanitary Inspector and his Assistant. The total value of the salvage was £4,999 13s. 1d.

The children in this area did very useful work in the collection of the salvage and their enthusiasm was kept up by the fact that in 1944 fifty film shows were given in schools and to Youth Organisations by the Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

(3) STRATHBOGIE DIVISION.

Milk:

At the end of 1945, there were 50 registered dairies in the Strathbogie Division and of these 26 produced ordinary milk, 12 Standard milk, 9 T.T. milk and 3 Certified milk. Prior to the onset of war, there were only 4 designated licences in this Division.

Inspection of Meat, etc.:

Shortly after the outbreak of war the slaughterhouses at Rhynie and Fyvie were closed, except for emergency work, and slaughtering was centralised at Turriff. During the period under review, there were killed and inspected 6,379 bovines, 16,360 sheep and 601 pigs. The percentage condemned was small.

As regards other foods, the condemnation was very small; the largest number of complaints was in respect of oranges that had become decayed through delay in transport.

Water Supply:

The Divisional Sanitary Inspector reported that in 1942 considerable difficulty was experienced at Rhynie. The inflow of the reservoir was more than ample for the needs of the community but the level of the water was dropping alarmingly. A considerable leak was ultimately discovered and when this defect was remedied no further shortages occurred.

As regards the water supply to Fyvie village, the old supply, off Kirkton farm, was condemned and now only two sources of supply are in use. At Gartly the water pressure fell very low and it was discovered, on sectioning the main, that the 2" main pipe was almost completely corroded with rust. After scouring the main and using drain-rods this supply was completely restored.

Drainage:

The number of special drainage districts in this Division is 9. The Divisional Sanitary Inspector reports that very little trouble was experienced in connection with the sewers.

Factories:

Under the Factories Act, 566 visits of inspection were paid.

Salvage:

A successful salvage drive was achieved in this Division, the work being carried out by numerous volunteers including school children. In all 679 tons of metal, 257 tons of paper and large quantities of bones, bottles, rags, etc., were collected. The total amount received for the sale of the materials was £2,497 10s. 3d. Most of this money was distributed to school funds and war charities.

(4) MAR DIVISION.

Milk:

The number of registered producers in the Mar Division at the end of 1945 was 30; of these, 4 produced T.T. milk and 6 Standard milk.

During the war years, 143 samples of Designated milks were taken for bacteriological examination and 13 were found not to comply with the required standards. In those cases, the Divisional Sanitary Inspector paid visits to the dairies with a view to ascertaining defective methods of production.

Inspection of Meat, etc.:

The total number of seizures of meat and foodstuffs was 268 and this represented a total weight of 4 tons 2 cwt. Three tons of flour infected with grub, 2 cwt. of rancid butter, 2 cwt. 3 st. of contaminated sugar and 2½ cwt. of custard powder were salvaged for animal feeding or reprocessing.

Water Supplies:

There are eleven special water supply districts. There were no serious shortages in any of the supplies during the years under review. Of 45 samples of water analysed, 37 were found to be suitable for domestic use and 8 to be unsuitable.

Drainage:

In the Division, there are nine Special Districts and no trouble was experienced in connection with any of the sewers with the exception of a section of the Aboyne sewer which is liable to be choked periodically. The smoke test was applied on 68 occasions.

Factories:

Seven-hundred and forty-four visits of inspection were made under the Factories Act.

Salvage:

A considerable amount of salvage work was undertaken, mainly by volunteer organisations. In all, 920 tons were collected and the value of the salvage material was £2,460.

INFESTATION BY RATS AND MICE:

(Applicable to all four Divisions).

The Divisional Sanitary Inspectors carried out their usual duties under the Rats and Mice Destruction (Scotland) Act, 1919. The setting up of military premises by the War Departments resulted in many of the premises and the surrounding properties becoming infested with rats. This problem led to the passing of the Rats and Mice (Scotland) Order, 1943, and the setting up in the City of Aberdeen of the Pests Destruction Branch of the Department of Agriculture, whose trained personnel were made available for the destruction of rats in the areas of local authorities.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

During the years 1940 to 1945 the number of formal samples analysed from the whole County was 509*. The number of informal samples taken during the same period was 121*. Police Officers acted as sampling officers under this Act.

The materials sampled were as follows:—

Bacon.	Milk Custards.
Butter.	Mixed Spices.
Cheese.	Mustard.
Cocoa.	Oatmeal.
Coffee.	Onion Extract.
Dried Food Stuffs.	Raising Agents.
Drugs.	Rum.
Fats.	Sausages.
Flour.	Sugar.
Gelatine.	Sweets.
Ice Cream.	Tea.
Jams and Jellies.	Tinned Food Stuffs.
Milk (liquid).	Vinegar.
Milks (dried).	Whisky.

Convictions were obtained in 21 cases for weak milk, in 5 for weak whisky, and one each for adulterated vinegar, onion extract, sausages, and self-raising flour.

*Figures are not available for the third quarter of 1945.

II. BURGHS.

(1) BALLATER.

Water Supplies:

During the years 1940 to 1945 the quality of the water was good and the quantity practically unlimited. The river Gairn was the source of supply, the water passing through sand filters to a storage tank of 200,000 gallons capacity. Inconvenience was caused in 1941 by the freezing of underground water pipes; the frost penetrated at times, to a depth of 40 inches.

Drainage:

In order to facilitate the work of inspection and cleansing, six new manholes were built on the main sewers in the Invercauld and Braemar roads where trouble was experienced by tree roots which had gained access to the pipes. The main sewers were scraped and cleaned during 1940; this work is undertaken every fifth year. All new drainage systems were examined and smoke-tested.

Scavenging:

Direct labour was used for the collection and removal of refuse, the arrangements being such that shop refuse and combustible materials were collected separately from domestic refuse and were also dealt with separately at the dump. Transport was by means of a "Karrier Bantam" motor vehicle which gave good service and was used for other work such as snow clearance, street sweeping and general haulage. Controlled tipping was practised at the refuse dump where destruction of vermin was undertaken by the resident caretaker of the Sewage Purification Works. On two occasions the services of the Pests Destruction Branch of the Board of Agriculture were utilised to make thorough the clearance of vermin at the dump.

Milk:

There were no registered milk producers within the Burgh and the only cows kept were a herd of 10 to 12 which provided a private supply to one of the hotels. The byre in which these cows were housed was remodelled in 1944 and made to comply with the Dairy Bye-laws.

Three milk-shops and three registered producer-retailers provided the greater part of the milk supply. One of the milk-shops was completely remodelled in 1941 and had installed in it steam for the sterilisation of utensils and an "Electrolux" refrigerator for storage purposes.

Meat:

Butcher meat was retailed from two shops and routine meat inspections at these shops resulted in three seizures, weighing 280 lbs.

Other food condemned at retail shops comprised 71 seizures weighing 4,491 lbs.

Salvage:

The number of pupils attending the only school within the Burgh was in excess of the capacity of the class rooms and additional accommodation was obtained in the Royal Albert Hall. The pupils attending this school repeatedly gained the shield awarded by the Waste

Paper Recovery Association for the best collections of waste paper in the Deeside part of the Mar Division of the County. The Town Council was also very active in the work of salvage and the materials collected and disposed of were as follows:—

				Quantities.				Value		
				Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	...	...	...	97	7	2	16	525	13	2
Scrap Metal	...	...	...	37	2	2	15	39	17	0
Bottles	...	...	...	2	8	2	—	2	12	9
Bones	...	...	...	11	15	2	5	41	10	10
Horse Hair, etc.	...	...	...	—	16	—	—	17	9	10
				149	10	1	8	£627	3	7

(2) ELLON.

Water Supplies:

The gathering springs and storage tanks received regular attention and the supply continued to be satisfactory.

Drainage:

The sewage system was well maintained and no serious chokes occurred.

Scavenging:

All domestic refuse was collected by the Town Council staff in a Karrier Colt vehicle and conveyed to a well-conducted dump.

Meat, etc.:

In the private slaughter-house, killing was carried out only “in emergency.” The number of animals thus slaughtered was 278 and this number comprised 84 bovines, 5 pigs and 189 sheep.

Twenty thousand, two hundred and thirty-five lbs. of meat and 314 lbs. of offal were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Food Inspection:

Two cwts. 2 qrs. 26 lbs. of canned food were condemned.

Nuisances:

Inspection for the detection of nuisances resulted in 73 nuisances being found and these were dealt with adequately.

(3) HUNTLY.

Water Supplies:

The quantity of water generally sufficed for the requirements of the Burgh but discolouration led to the necessity for regular scouring of the mains. Complaints were received regarding the taste and smell of the water and, after a full investigation, it was decided to dose the water in the open reservoir with copper sulphate, 2.5 lbs. per million gallons, twice per week. In addition, the large service tank at Craighead was turfed over, adequate ventilation provided by vermin-proof ventilators and the chlorinating solution was made up daily and frequent testing carried out to ascertain the presence of residual chlorine. Despite the carrying out of these measures the quality of the water did not give full satisfaction. Messrs. Parker & Gordon

proposed various improvements which have not yet been carried out. There is unanimity of opinion that proper filtration should be provided and that the old mains in the Burgh should be renewed.

Drainage:

The sewerage system worked satisfactorily and was inspected periodically. A small number of house drains were laid down and smoke tested before being covered up.

The Burgh sewage was discharged direct into the Bogie and, although no complaints were received regarding the method of disposal the Town Council have in mind the installation of a sewage purification plant.

Household and shop refuse continued to be tipped into the old Corvichen Quarry.

Meat, etc.:

Since the beginning of the war no slaughtering has taken place in the two private slaughter-houses in the Burgh.

The quantities of foodstuffs seized and destroyed were as follows:—Tinned meat—1,045 lbs.; tinned fruit—133½ lbs.; tinned fish—31½ lbs.; tinned milk—69 lbs.; fresh herrings—523 lbs.; and fresh fruit—163 lbs.

Salvage:

Salvage continued to be collected during the years 1940 to 1945, the total weight collected being 474 tons 1 cwt. 11 lbs. which was valued at £1,843 14s. 3d.

(4) INVERURIE.

Milk:

There were 4 retailers of milk in the Burgh and 3 of these were farmers. The dairy farms were situated outwith the Burgh but the milk was retailed throughout the Burgh and transported by horse-drawn vehicles which were generally kept in a very satisfactory condition.

Meat, etc.:

Slaughtering for a large area was centralised at the Public Slaughterhouse which is owned by the Town Council.

Water Supplies:

The water supply, obtained from three different sources, was of excellent quality but shortages were experienced particularly during the summer and autumn months, and, because of this, a scheme was drawn up for the obtaining of water from the stream passing through the Glens of Foudland. This scheme is meantime in abeyance until it is decided whether or not a Regional Water Scheme is to be adopted.

During the war years the settling tanks and reservoirs were cleaned out periodically, the filter beds were renewed and all valves and other apparatus were carefully examined in order to ensure that they were working in a satisfactory manner.

Drainage:

All the main sewers and private drains were kept as far as possible in a satisfactory working condition but, when additional demands are made, the whole drainage system may require to be reviewed.

For scavenging purposes the Burgh is divided into three sections and the working arrangements were carried out in a satisfactory manner. In 1943, the Town Council decided to have the work done by direct labour instead of by contract.

Factories, etc.:

Under the Factories Act, 1937, 325 inspections were carried out during the six years under review.

Two hundred and eighty nuisances were dealt with in the same period.

Salvage:

During the years 1940 to 1945, much salvage was collected, and, in the collection of waste paper, the enthusiastic assistance of school children was obtained. In order to maintain this enthusiasm prizes were given and trips arranged to the Paper Mills. The weight of material salvaged was, tins—105 tons, heavy scrap—18 tons, light scrap—47 tons, bones—8 tons, rags—4 tons. This did not include lead, aluminium, brass and thousands of bottles and jelly jars.

(5) KINTORE.

Water Supplies:

During the years 1940 to 1945, the water supply continued to be adequate and the results of bacteriological and chemical analyses of the water were good.

Drainage:

Two new drains, each of which passed the smoke test, were laid down when two new bath-rooms were installed in 1944.

Scavenging:

Scavenging was carried out by contract and disposal was effected by controlled tipping near Midmill. The dump was maintained in an orderly state as frequent inspection showed.

Milk:

Within the Burgh the two dairy farms were reconstructed in accordance with the Dairy Bye-laws and samples of their milk were proved to be satisfactory. Two retailers also supplied the Burgh.

(6) OLDMELDROM.

Water Supplies:

During the war years the supply of water was equal to all demands, and quite fit bacteriologically and chemically for human consumption.

When the cover of the reservoir was removed and the water exposed to the sun's rays algae grew on the surface. Treatment by copper sulphate and the re-covering of the reservoir proved the solution to the problem.

Drainage:

Seventeen new drainage systems were provided and all of them passed the smoke test. Four sinks, 8 water closets and 3 bathrooms with water closets were installed during the war years.

Scavenging:

Street sweeping was carried out by direct labour but the collection and disposal of refuse were effected by contract. Refuse was disposed of in marshy waste-land at Mossbank.

Milk:

The milk samples, which were taken regularly, were not unsatisfactory although the only registered dairy did not in all respects comply with the Dairy Bye-laws. In addition, two retailers also sold milk in the Burgh.

Meat, etc.:

Regular inspection showed no cause for complaint in the two butchers' shops.

During the war the distillery and a local church were used as food stores by the Ministry of Food. At the request of the Ministry, 10 per cent. of the food was inspected and it was found that quite a large proportion had gone bad. Appropriate action was taken.

(7) ROSEHEARTY.

Water Supplies:

Samples of the existing water supply were found to be satisfactory but the scarcity was so acute that application was made to the County Council with a view to obtaining a supply from the village of Sandhaven. Negotiations in this connection are proceeding.

Drainage:

The sewage system was well maintained and no serious chokes occurred, but, when new houses are erected, parts of the sewers will require to be increased in size.

Scavenging:

The collection of all domestic refuse was carried out by a local contractor. The Town Council provided a proper dust cart and a sea tip was used which gave little cause for complaint.

During the period of hostilities the Burgh foreman carried out excellent work in connection with the collection of waste paper and other materials.

Milk:

In the Burgh there were two registered dairies one of which had a Standard licence while the other sold ordinary milk. Of 13 milk samples taken, 9 were satisfactory and 4 were unsatisfactory.

Food Inspection:

In addition to the ordinary routine inspection of food in shops, there was examined a considerable amount of materials damaged by enemy action in 1942. The amounts inspected were:—assorted groceries—5 tons, soup and meat—980 tins and flour—4 cwts.

Nuisances:

Very few nuisances were brought to light, and, in the cases actually detected, verbal intimations were followed by rapid abatement.

(8) TURRIFF.

Water Supplies:

The Burgh derives its supply from two sources and these proved adequate to the demand. On one occasion the daily consumption was 203,000 gallons. This was excessive but after leaking fittings had been remedied the consumption fell appreciably. Further investigation, however, is being arranged. Chemical analyses were consistently good but the bacteriological findings varied, probably because of farming activities, manure having been laid too close to collecting pipes.

Towards the end of 1945, a scheme for a new storage tank of 250,000 gallons was prepared. This tank would enable the housing programme to develop more satisfactorily.

Drainage:

Generally the main drainage was adequate but in one instance the gradient was too steep for the volume of sewage and the sewer choked occasionally. It is hoped to divert this sewer to a different route.

Sewage purification was effected by detritus chambers, septic tanks and filter beds; there were three such plants. The filter mechanisms were troublesome but later were made to function efficiently. Two of the plants were overloaded but the Town Council asked their engineer to report and submit a scheme.

Scavenging and Cleansing were performed by the Town Council's own staff, household refuse being collected bi-weekly and trade refuse once per week.

Disposal was by controlled tipping at Brodies Braes at a dump which was almost levelled off. A new site has been chosen for future tipping.

Meat, etc.:

The one slaughterhouse in the Burgh is owned by the Town Council who have acted as slaughtering contractors to the Ministry of Food since 1940.

During the period under review a great variety of tinned foods, dried fruits, etc., was seized and destroyed with the owners' consent.

Nuisances:

Seventeen intimations under Section 19 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, were served.

Factories Act, 1937:

It was seldom that any action was required as the premises were kept in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Salvage:

Collection of waste paper, scrap metal, etc., was carried out by the cleansing staff and the total sum received for the six years in question was £984 17s. 10d.

(9) PETERHEAD.

Water Supplies:

The quality of the water was consistently good but the quantity was insufficient. In the period under review the amount of water conserved in the reservoirs during the winter months was just sufficient to satisfy industrial and domestic requirements over the relatively dry summer months. In addition, there was lack of head and so a "booster" pump was installed in order to give some assistance in providing the necessary pressure required to service the majority of houses and factories in the Burgh.

The water position, however, was such that there was little opportunity for the scouring and cleaning of the water mains and this was another factor detrimental to an adequate supply. The Town Council decided that the river Ugie might be considered as a source of supply which could cope with the present-day consumption and any future increased demand.

Sewage and Drainage:

The sewage was discharged in its crude state by 13 separate outfalls, on one of which fairly extensive repairs were carried out.

With regard to drainage, the only trouble experienced was by storm water on a section of Queen Street and this is being remedied.

Scavenging and cleansing were carried out satisfactorily as was the work of intensive salvage collection.

Meat, etc.:

From 1940 to 1945 the numbers slaughtered were 9,863 bovines, 34,607 sheep and 370 pigs, a gross total of 44,840 animals. The weight detained and condemned as unfit for human food was 125 tons 7 cwt.

Other foods seized as unfit for human consumption were:—tinned foods—6,967 tins, margarine—50 lbs., flour—56 lbs., oatmeal—196 lbs., butter—9,418 lbs., rice—720 lbs., and dried ginger—168 lbs.

Nuisances:

One hundred and forty-eight nuisances, the majority of a minor nature, were dealt with under the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897.

Factories Act, 1937:

The majority of the 113 factories within the Burgh were kippering and curing premises and, while much was done along the lines laid down in the 1937 Act, there remains room for more improvement in the Sanitary aspect. Everything possible was done to see that food production, etc., was carried out under the most hygienic conditions.

(10) FRASERBURGH.

Water Supplies:

The water supply during the six year period was satisfactory except for a short time during 1942 when the level of the water in the Fedderate Reservoir fell to 6' 6" below the overflow. Since that time the rights in respect of the compensation water have been acquired by the Town Council and this provides the burgh with an additional 300,000 gallons per day, which can be drawn upon to keep up reserves.

The erection of a de-hydration plant and the increased population engaged on war work caused an unusually heavy demand on the supply during the peak draw-off periods. There were installed an additional mechanical filter at Bogensourie, an electrically driven centrifugal pump at Strichen and a pump on the 9" Hillhead main. A re-inforced concrete reservoir of 100,000 gallons capacity was constructed in Castle Terrace.

Drainage:

The sewerage system functioned satisfactorily though repairs will soon be necessary as several of the outfall sewers are defective.

Cleansing:

Burgh refuse was tipped over the bank of the foreshore on the north side of the burgh and conditions are not satisfactory.

The type and condition of refuse bins deteriorated during the war years and inadequate substitutes leave much to be desired.

Rat Infestation:

Arrangements have been made with the County Authorities for an extermination campaign to be carried out.

